Cops suspect Ativan Gang behind envoy's disappearance

STORY ON PAGE A2

Where's the reward?

DAIG PA NAMIN ANG NANALO SA 'WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE!'
!

By Julie S. Alipala

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The man who reported his missing son to the Scout Rangers, a tip that led to the rescue of Gracia Burnham, now has a request to make of the United States: Show me the money!

WHERE'S/A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Pasay cops on 'vacation'** METRO / A26
- **Bishop apologizes over priest row** ACROSS / A14
- **Metro Pacific says it will pay debts** BUSINESS / B1

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Monday, June 10, 2002 ★ 70 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 182 P15
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Ediborah a hero—Gracia

US hostage survivor shares memories with Yap's children

AFP wants more US war materiel

By Carlito Pablo *in Manila*
Julie S. Alipala
and Hernan P. de la Cruz
PDI Mindanao Bureau

IN THE FINAL push against Abu Sayyaf bandits, the Armed Forces of the Philippines needs more war materiel from Uncle Sam.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has directed the AFP to come up with a shopping list for submission to the United States.

"I instructed (AFP Vice Chief of Staff) Gen. (Gregorio) Camiling to prepare a list of what they need," the President said yesterday.

Ms Macapagal conferred Saturday with top defense and military officials whom she ordered to finish off the Abu Sayyaf now that the bandits no longer have hostages.

Asked what equipment would be sought from the United States, Ms Macapagal said: "It would depend on the operational plans."

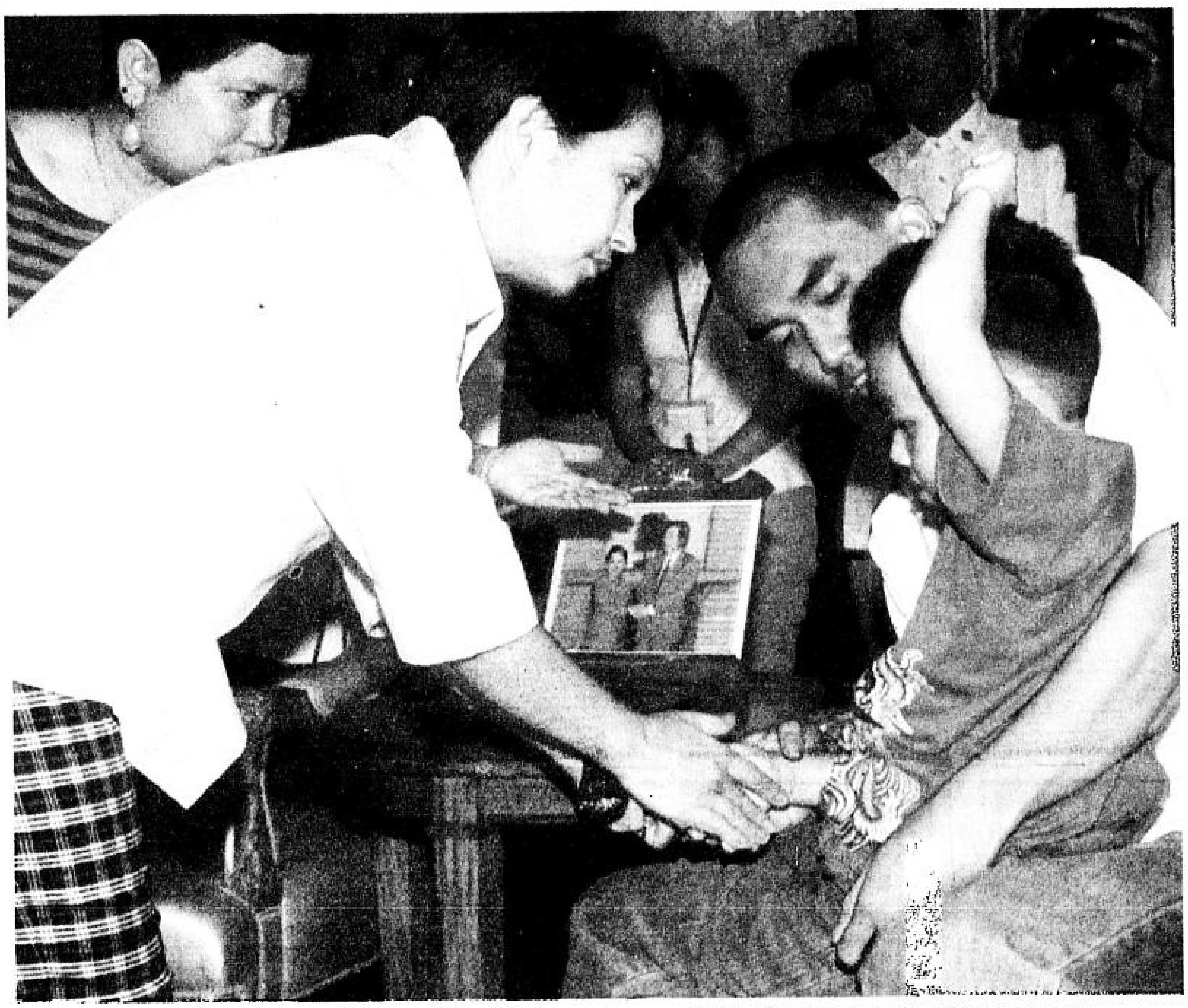
"The strategic goal I gave was to finish the fight and then they would do the operational plans. Then they would list down the requirements," she said.

She said she told US President George Bush during their telephone conversation on Friday that "we (the Philippine government) will have to finish this war."

"Terrorism is a scourge upon the Earth and we must obliterate it so that we can move and win the battle against poverty, which is the most important battle in our country," she said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said US forces deployed in Mindanao had actively helped plan and execute

AFP/A20



PRESIDENT Macapagal extends her condolence to Ediborah Yap's sons—Lawrence William, 6, and Jonathan, 24—during a meeting in Malacañang. The two came with their brother Anthony, 20, and sister Mary Ann, 16. VAL HANDUMON

'Their lives were light in dark area'

By Cathy Babao Guballa

"WE may never get out of the jungle alive, but at least we can go out of this world serving the Lord with gladness. And we can serve Him right here with gladness."

Pastor Jodi Crane, head of the New Tribes Mission in the Philippines, yesterday said this was what Martin Burnham would often remind his wife Gracia during their yearlong captivity in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Crane visited Gracia Burnham at the US Chancery in Pasay City the day before and shared her thoughts during Sunday service at the Christ Commission Fellowship Church on Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

The Burnham couple, Crane's colleagues in the New Tribes Mission, would attend the CCF Sunday service whenever they were in Manila.

"Gracia shared that by God's amazing grace they have been sustained, their lives were used as light in a dark area," Crane said.

"She said that Martin was highly respected by every single one of the ASG. In the beginning, they (bandits) laughed in disbelief at some of the things he would say and the way he acted. But as time went on they

THEIR/A20

By Carlito Pablo

GRACIA Burnham burst into tears a number of times yesterday afternoon when she finally met the children of Ediborah Yap, the Filipino nurse who took care of her and her husband Martin in the jungles of Basilan.

"It was a wonderful meeting," Frank Jenista, spokesperson of the US Embassy, told the INQUIRER.

Jenista said the children were also in tears as the wounded American missionary told them of the 10 months that she and their mother had been together.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo said Burnham requested to see Yap's children when she visited her on Saturday night at her hospital bed inside the US Chancery in Pasay City.

"Gracia had been with their mother for one year and she is sure that the children want to know many details about how their mother had been throughout this past year," the President said.

"Gracia herself told me that Ediborah was a hero," she added.

Yap was killed along with Burnham's husband Martin in a bloody attempt by government forces to rescue them from Abu Sayyaf bandits on Friday near Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte. Burnham was wounded and brought to Manila for treatment and recovery.

The bandits seized Yap along with several hospital staff members when they raided her hometown in Lamitan, Basilan, on June 2 last year. They took Gracia and Martin Burnham days earlier from the Dos Palmas beach resort in Palawan and brought them to Basilan.

The three were the last from among dozens of hostages taken in last year's kidnapping spree by the Abu Sayyaf. The

EDIBORAH/A20

₱500 bread gave Abu Sayyaf away

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SIRAWAI, Zamboanga del Norte—Peanut butter and loaves of bread gave away the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"We were able to determine the presence of the Abu Sayyaf when a resident here saw a neighbor bringing bread worth P500," said Col. Buenaventura Pascual, chief of the 44th Infantry Battalion based in this town.

"He got curious and inquired, and the latter admitted that several armed men had instructed him to buy P500 worth of bread and peanut butter," Pascual told the INQUIRER on Saturday.

He said the military was able to locate the bandits through "Radyo Bagtas (word of mouth)." Then came the confirmation of the Abu Sayyaf's presence in the jungle of Sirawai.

"Bull's eye, sir. We've located the group," the words crackled over a two-way radio.

That message from 40 Army Scout Rangers helped trigger the bloody surprise attack that

P500/A20

Rescue mission turning point in AFP drive against Sayyaf

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE RESCUE of Gracia Burnham—albeit at the cost of the lives of Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap—ended the hostage episode that had hampered military operations against the Abu Sayyaf for more than one year.

It clears the way for the military's pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf band estimated to number 35 in Zamboanga del Norte. The firefight, that erupted as the military patrol came close to the band holding the three hostages on Friday, was a turning point in the campaign.

The rescue operation enabled the military to regain the initiative. Although the Abu Sayyaf had previously broken itself into smaller groups, the Zamboanga del Norte firefight was the biggest encounter in the campaign.

The Abu Sayyaf is clearly on the run. It would be a disaster for the military to squander this advantage.

The rescue has deprived the Abu Sayyaf of an ace. The outlaws have used the hostages to shield them from attack.

The military operations that began with the abduction of 17 hostages in Dos Palmas Resort on May 27, 2001 had been hampered by concerns over the safety of the hostages and the objective of rescuing them unharmed.

RESCUE/A7

Case vs NPA founder shows land reform rot

By Tonette Orejas
and Russell Arador
PDI Central Luzon Desk

(First of three parts)

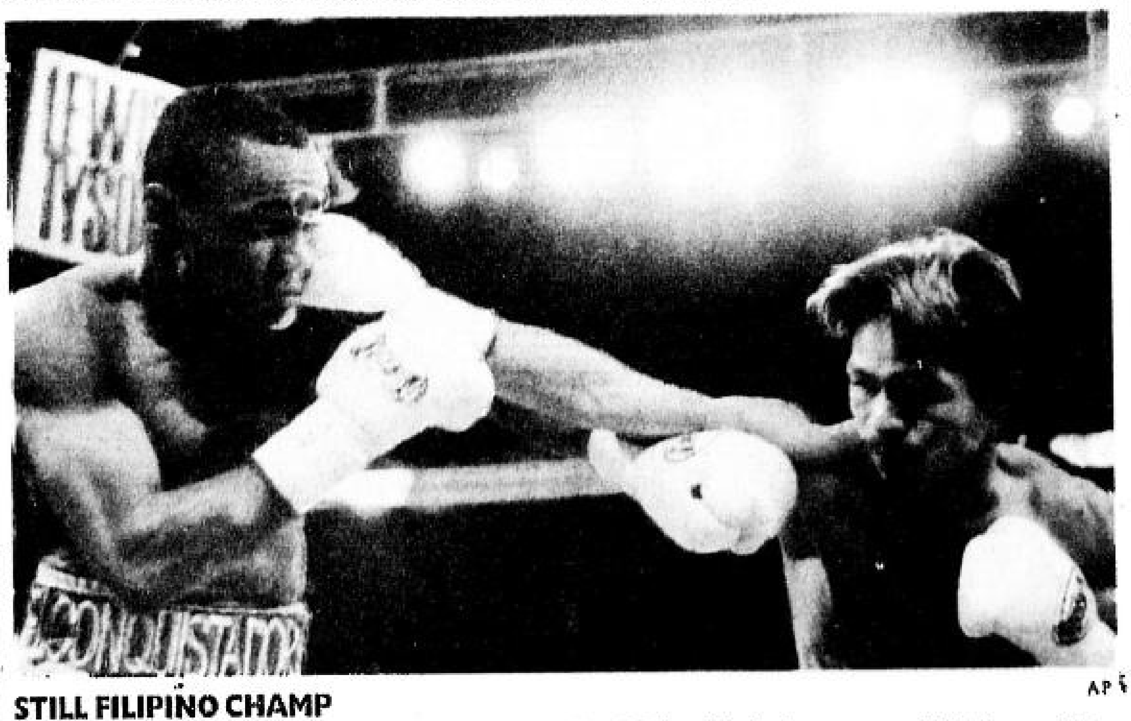
DANTE'S PURGATORY
An I-TEAM Report

TARLAC CITY—The twisted fate of land reform in the Philippines runs right through a five-hectare farm in Balanti, a remote river-ringed hamlet in this province.

On one side stands a 76-year-old tenant, Pablo Mendoza, who has tilled the land since 1944. On the other side is a most unlikely foe: Bernabe Buscayno, more popularly known as Kumander Dante, the founder and former commander of the New People's Army.

Sixteen months ago, Mendoza asked the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab) to cancel three emancipation patents covering seven hectares of land awarded to Buscayno and his two relatives. The story behind the suit helps explain why, 14 years after it became law on June 10, 1988, the country's comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP) remains more honored in the breach.

CASE/A21



AP

STILL FILIPINO CHAMP

Manny Pacquiao connects a blow at Jorge Eliecer Julio of Colombia during a successful defense of his IBF junior featherweight title in Memphis, Tennessee. *(See story in Sports, Page A24.)*

SAKIT NG ULO TALAGA ANG ATIVAN GANG NA YAN!

Second FRONT PAGE

Cops suspect Ativan Gang behind envoy's disappearance

By Alcuin Papa

THE NOTORIOUS Ativan Gang is suspected to be behind the recent disappearance of two foreign nationals, one of them a ranking official of the Korean Embassy, the Makati police said the other day.

Korean Chung Young-ho, 47, of Unit 2404 Ritz Tower Condominium, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, was reported missing on June 7. He holds the post of embassy third secretary.

The circumstances of the diplomat's disappearance are identical to the case of Israeli Broudo Gordechai, who was abducted just over a week ago.

Lee Yong-soo, Korean Embassy first secretary, said he had already asked Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza to help find Chung.

"We believe he is still alive," Lee told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Police reports said a friend identified as Chung Han Young was the last to see Chung on the night of June 6.

Young told police that he went to Chung's office at 7:30 that evening. They had dinner at the Soo Woo Korean Restaurant on Gen. Luna Street, in Barangay Poblacion, Makati.

After dinner, the two went for drinks at the Jools Club on P. Burgos Street, but found it closed. They proceeded to the Heritage Money Changer shop on the same street.

Korean greeting

While the two were waiting at the money changer's, a man approached and greeted them in Korean. He identified himself as Robert Sambili, a vice president of the Hongkong-Shanghai Bank Corp.

Sambili befriended the Koreans and invited them to a bar in the Ortigas area. They all boarded Sambili's car, which was being driven by another man.

Young said that when he mentioned he was familiar with the Ortigas area, Sambili suggested a change of venue. They proceeded to Paradise Videoke on Ortigas Extension, in San Isidro, Taytay.

After the drinking spree two hours later, Young asked to be dropped off on Meralco Avenue, leaving Chung with the two men in the car.

Young said he called Chung's cell phone at 10:50 p.m., and Chung said the car was approaching his Makati residence. Ten minutes later, Young called Chung again, but failed to make contact. He assumed that Chung was already home.

The next morning, Young called up his friend again, but Chung's wife said her husband didn't come home the previous night. Young called the Korean Embassy to report what happened.

Embassy officials said they had confirmed that the identity of the man who invited the Koreans was false.

CHUNG Young-ho: Missing after a night out with new friends with fake identities.

Missing Israeli

Investigators PO1 Ricardo Tan and PO2 Juancho Ibis said the Korean's disappearance could have been pulled off by the same group that abducted Israeli Broudo Gordechai, 42. Gordechai was reported missing on May 30.

The Makati City police said the gang's modus operandi was to knock out their victims with spiked drinks.

According to the police report, Gordechai and companion Sivan Tsachi, 42, both billeted at the Mandarin Hotel, were at the Glorietta Center waiting for a cab at around 7:45 p.m.

An unidentified male approached and befriended them, identifying himself as a vice president of the HSBC. He offered the two a ride back to the hotel.

Inside the suspect's gray Mitsubishi Lancer, the two victims were given canned pineapple juice drinks. Tsachi said he felt dizzy after finishing the drink, and asked to be let out of the car. The car sped away once Tsachi was out, leaving Gordechai in the vehicle with the suspect.

Tsachi reported the abduction to the Makati police station 6. *With Norman Bordadora*

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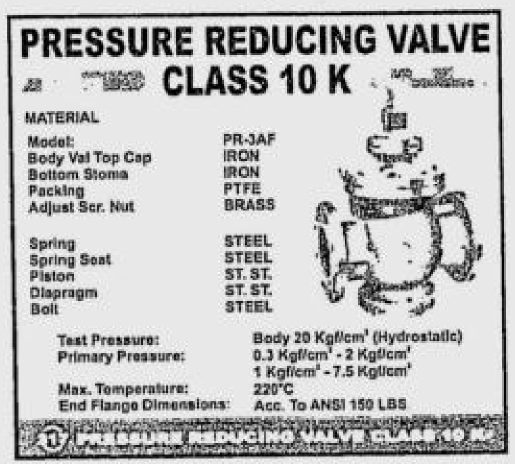

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MVP will have to go, says HK-based source

By Doris C. Dumlao

MANUEL V. Pangilinan, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Metro Pacific Corp. president, will have to go, a source from the First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong said yesterday.

The Hong Kong-based source said Pangilinan would have to vacate his posts as he was opposing the $925-million deal between First Pacific and John Gokongwei.

Asked why First Pacific was not firing Pangilinan at this time, the source said: "First Pacific tries to be very responsible and wants do this on a real business-like basis and not be emotional about it. We believe we have a good deal and we're hoping that over time, this is done properly."

Pangilinan said he was sticking to his posts even as he was putting together a consortium that would tender a counter-offer to the First Pacific-Gokongwei deal ***(See related story on B1)***.

First Pacific and Gokongwei formed last week a joint venture firm for the control of a 24.47-percent stake in PLDT and 50.4 percent in MPC's core subsidiary Bonifacio Land Co. A 67 percent stake in the venture was sold to Gokongwei.

The source said there was no way of stopping the deal because First Pacific preferred the Gokongweis as partner in the Philippines.

"This is not public offering. This is an agreement between First Pacific and the Gokongweis," the source said.

The source said First Pacific had closed its doors to selling the 67-percent stake in the joint venture to any other group amid reports that a local group led by Pangilinan was putting up a consortium to counter the package.

While acknowledging that Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone had the right to match the package under a PLDT shareholders agreement with First Pacific, the source said First Pacific was confident that NTT would not oppose the deal.

First Pacific is scheduled to meet with NTT, the second biggest stockholder in PLDT with a 15-percent stake, in the next few days.

First Pacific has barred Pangilinan from further involvement in the deal in the same way that former MPC president Ricardo Pascua was eased out when he attempted a management buy-out of the property firm, according to the source.

In a letter sent by First Pacific Executive Director Ronald Brown to Pangilinan on Friday, the Filipino executive was asked to follow certain guidelines, including disclosure of his participation or plans to take part in a management buyout of either PLDT or MPC.

"The guidelines are designed to address any actual or potential conflicts of interest arising principally from your dual roles as executive chairman of First Pacific and president and CEO of PLDT," the letter said.

The source said Pangilinan's involvement in moves to oppose the deal showed "blatant conflict of interest."

Asked whether First Pacific was preparing further measures against Pangilinan, the source said: "I think the letter sent this week is starting to do that."

In the interest of good governance, the source said Pangilinan should not participate in any transaction related to the deal.

"Why doesn't he step down? He was here (Hong Kong) last Monday (during the First Pacific board meeting). Later that night he took part in the PLDT board through teleconferencing and then the board indicated opposition," the source noted.

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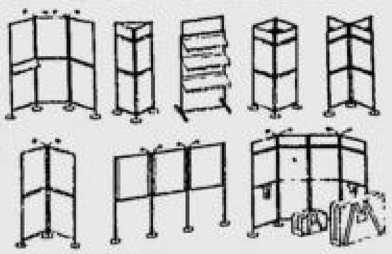

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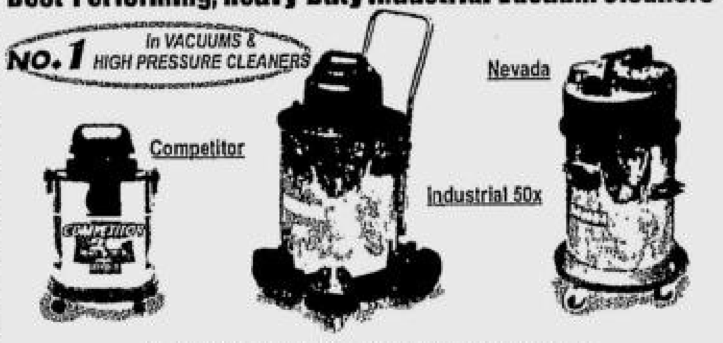

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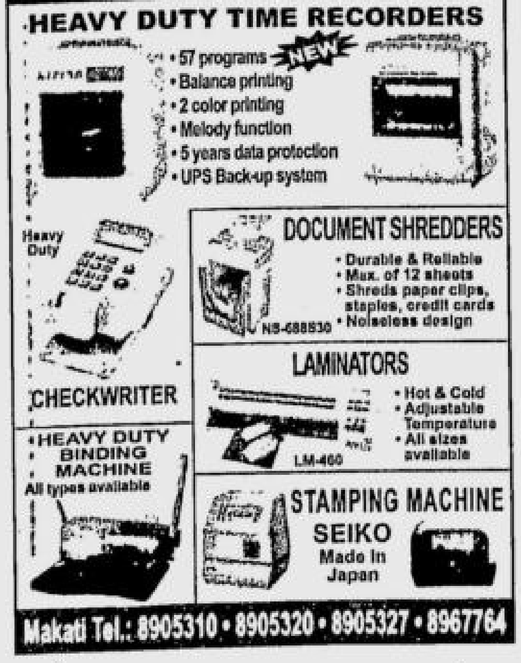

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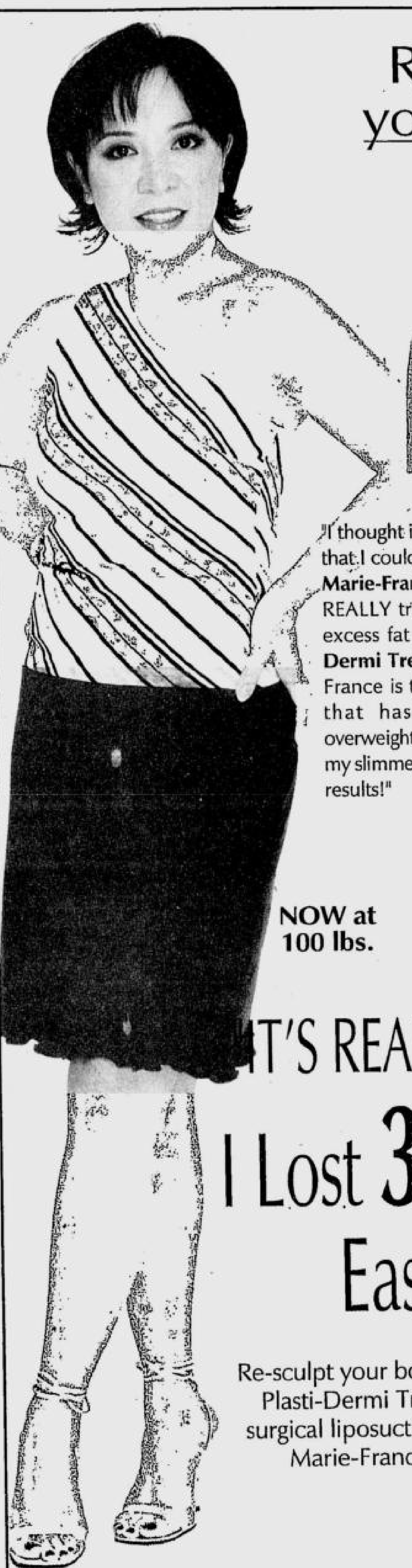

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CHR COUP?

Colleagues oust Recina

By G. Lacuarta

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights has declared vacant the position of its chair, Aurora Navarette-Recina, and asked President Macapagal-Arroyo for an immediate replacement.

All four CHR commissioners said Recina was officially retired and that in fact, she collected P2.36 million in retirement pay last March.

The CHR commissioners issued a two-page resolution over the weekend saying they were set to choose from among themselves an officer-in-charge who would perform the chair's functions until the President appointed a new chair.

Purificacion Valera-Quisumbing, Eligio Mallari, Malik Marandang, and Dominador Calamba III invoked their authority as commissioners to designate an acting chair, based on the independence of the CHR as upheld by two Supreme Court rulings.

They said the resolution was issued in response to a petition filed by CHR officials and employees led by Executive Director Jacqueline Mejia.

A Ramos appointee, Recina was to have completed a full seven-year term on May 5, 2001. On March 25, she encashed a LandBank check dated Dec. 20, 2001 for P2.36 million as retirement pay.

Enraged upon learning about the encashment only two weeks ago, the petitioners protested Recina's continued stay and drawing of salaries and benefits.

In a letter-reply dated June 5, Recina told the commissioners that only President Macapagal had the authority to name a replacement, even as OIC chair. And up till last Friday, Recina insisted she was staying on a hold-over capacity, "because leaving without a replacement would amount to abandonment of office."

Recina also wrote to the President last June 6, counter-charging that her oppositors had a "hidden agenda." She did not elaborate.

She defended her encashment of the check, saying she had been assured by the CHR finance director that it was in order. She added that the check did not include computation of terminal and accrued leaves "since I still am on a hold-over status as chairman."

The protesters challenged her to present any document from Malacañang that confirmed this.

"Recina is now a private citizen," said Homero Matthew Rustia, CHR secretary. "She cannot continue signing official documents and vouchers."

6,000 posts available in job fair at Rizal Park

By Blanche S. Rivera

SOME 6,000 jobs will be up for grabs in a two-day job fair sponsored by the Department of Labor and Employment at the Rizal Park in Manila tomorrow and Wednesday.

Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson said at least 50 companies and recruitment agencies would participate in the affair, which would open employment opportunities here and abroad.

The DOLE is expecting throngs of people at the Valencia Circle in the Rizal Park on Wednesday because of the non-working day.

The job fair, along with a livelihood fair showcasing products of rural and informal workers, is part of the DOLE's activities for the country's 104th Independence Day celebration.

Applicants are asked to bring their resumes, 2x2 pictures, police/NBI clearance, employment certificates of applicable and other pertinent documents.

The Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System, Pag-Ibig Fund, National Bureau of Investigation and Philhealth would also set up booths in the area.

The DOLE said an on-line registration for clearance and other documents from the said agencies have been made available for the convenience of the applicants.

There are around 4.2 million unemployed Filipinos or 10 percent of the country's 33 million workforce. This is already lower than the 11.3 percent unemployment rate last year, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas reported earlier.

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Poll body in limbo: 3 execs need reappointment

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COMMISSION on Elections is in limbo.

Three of its top officials, including Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo, are waiting to be officially reappointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, since the Commission on Appointments last week failed, for at least the 10th time, to confirm their appointments.

Benipayo and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr. were scheduled to face the CA on June 4, but the unexpected impasse in the Senate has derailed the proceedings.

The Comelec chair cancelled the en banc session last Thursday, annoying yet again four CA-confirmed commissioners—Luz Tancangco, Mehol Sadain, Ralph Lantion and Rufino Javier—who have accused the chair of arbitrarily suspending sessions.

"The chair called off the en banc because our legal personality might be questioned," Borra said, adding that they were just being careful while awaiting word from the President. The three of them could not sign official documents either, Borra said.

Malacañang earlier ordered Benipayo to work out his differences with the Tangcanco-led camp, which has been opposing his confirmation as well as those of Borra and Tuason.

The President, who appointed the three to the Comelec in February last year, has expressed concern over the damaging factionalism. The four protesters are Estrada appointees.

There are persistent rumors that Malacañang is not inclined to reappoint Benipayo, and is eyeing Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. for the top Comelec post.

Sources said Abalos' staff was already getting ready to transfer to the Comelec main office in Intramuros. In a ceremonial tee-off at the Wack Wack Country Club recently, Abalos was introduced by jesting friends as "the Comelec chair."

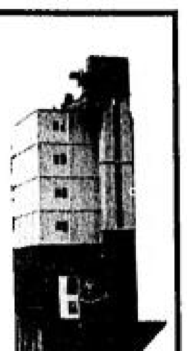
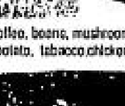
The three commissioners in waiting got their last interim appointments from Malacañang in March after the CA again failed to act upon their confirmation at the close of sessions in Congress.

Borra said these appointments were valid only until Congress adjourns, or when the CA officially rejects their confirmation.

When asked if the four opposing commissioners, could call for an en banc session on their own, Borra answered, "It is a possibility."

It was unclear, however, if the Comelec commission secretary (Comsec) would honor or promulgate any decisions made by Tancangco's group. The Comsec earlier refused to promulgate a resolution that the four authored during an "emergency en banc" they had called with regards to elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Tancangco pointed out that before the term of Benipayo, any commissioner could call an en banc session. But the Comelec senior staff expressed loyalty to Benipayo in an open letter signed by almost a hundred Comelec directors.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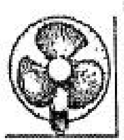

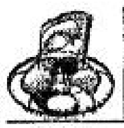

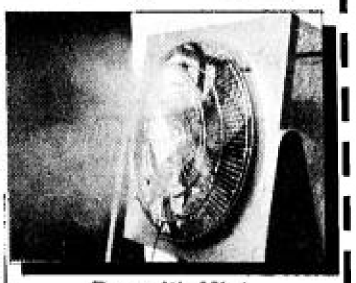

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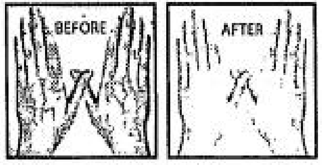

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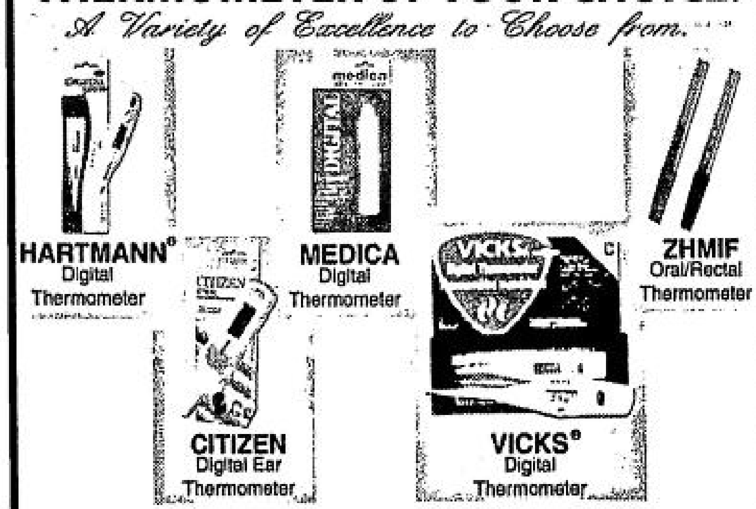

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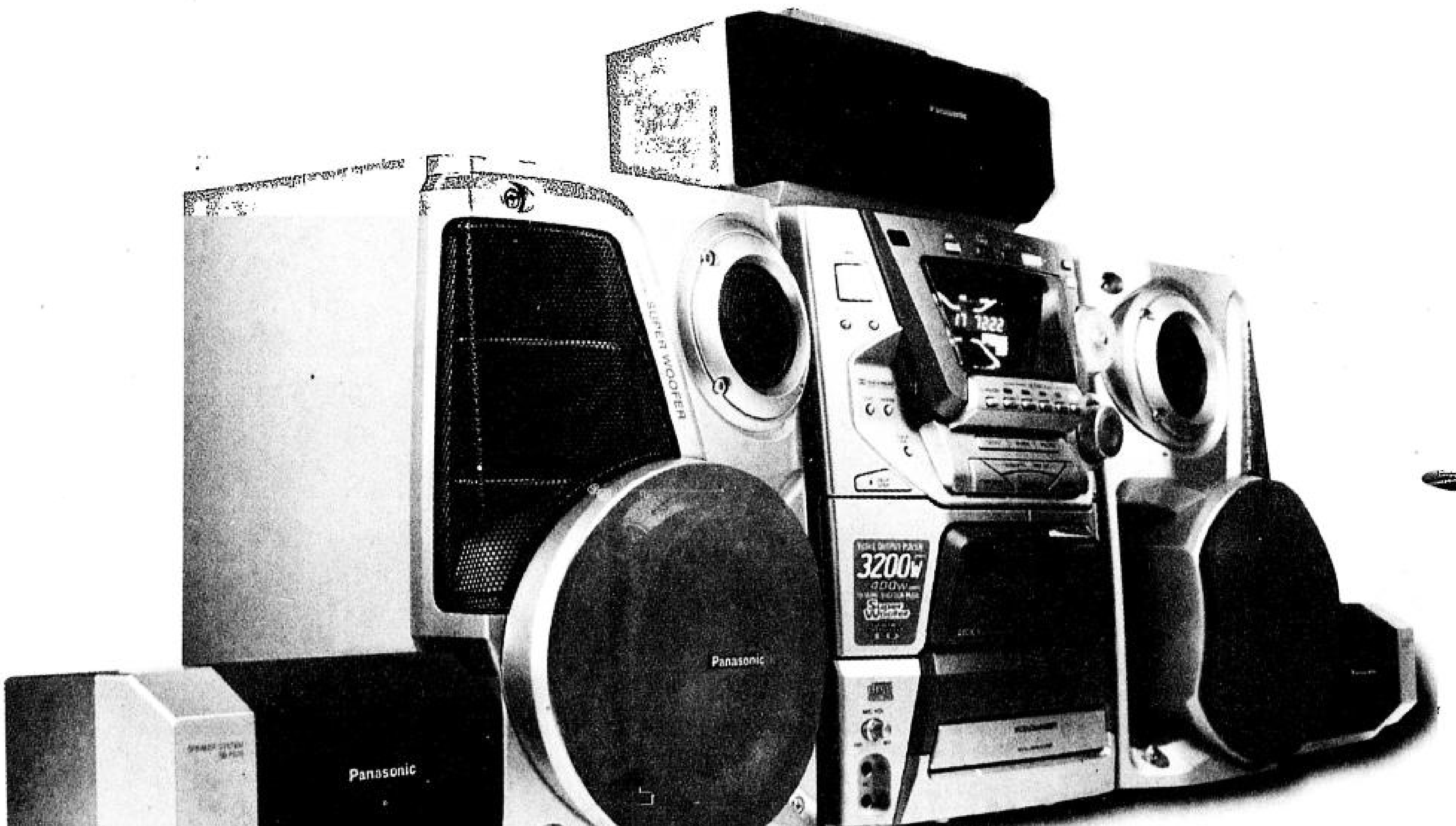

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'The Filipino is worth walking for'

AN AMERICAN educator walked 238 kilometers from Manila to Baguio in six days to raise funds for the heart operation of a 4-year-old Filipino boy and the kidney transplant of a Filipino journalist.

"The Filipino is worth walking for," said Van Richard Williamson, paraphrasing the late Sen. Benigno Aquino's famous line "The Filipino is worth dying for" when he completed the walk on May 16.

Williamson, 51, a guidance counselor and English teacher, said the money he raised for the walk would help pay for the operation of Jason Nuevas at the Philippine Heart Center, and for the medical expenses of journalist Claro Cortes III, who underwent a kidney transplant on April 4. Cortes, a former reporter of the Associated Press, is undergoing a lifetime treatment of immuno-suppressants.

Williamson took a leave from his work as guidance counselor in Taguig to concentrate on his fund-raising work with the St. Matthews Human Resources Foundation Inc.

He originally wanted to walk all the way to Banaue but security concerns made him change plans. His sponsors for the walk to Baguio City included Chow King, the House of Sara Lee and McCann Erickson.

He averaged 40 km for the six-day walk, which is just 10 km shy of the 50-km walking event at the Summer Olympics.

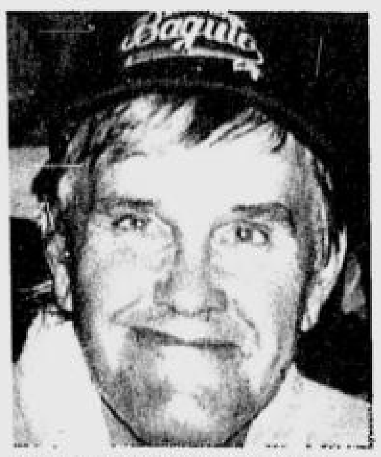
Williamson started at the Edsa Shrine and ended in Guiguinto town in Bulacan. The next day, he reached Dau in Pampanga. He developed blisters in both feet and had to massage his aching muscles to prevent cramps.

From Dau, he walked to Tarlac. The next day he reached Urdaneta in Pangasinan. He cited the trek to Urdaneta as pleasant because of its tree-lined highway. From there he walked to Sison, also in Pangasinan.

Day six was Baguio via Kennon Road where many well-wishers were waiting for him, including members of the Cortes' family who came from Manila.

He returned to Manila the next day by car. Those who supported him during his six-day walk included Johnny Belgica, Ernest and Bong Dano-og, and driver Dominador Alcantara.

Williamson has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Colorado. He also has a master's degree in special education from the University of the Philippines where he is working on his doctorate in educational anthropology and sociology.


WILLIAMSON walks for life.

He also worked as coordinator for Caritas, the charity institution of the Archdiocese of Manila. He has taught at Montessori, the Pamantasan ng Pasay and the International School in Manila.

"There's a lot of poor Filipinos out there who need help," said Williamson. "The Philippines needs help. This could have one effect on bringing that about."

Donations for Nuevas and Cortes can be coursed through the St. Matthews Human Resources Foundation through BPI account number 4943-0392-11.

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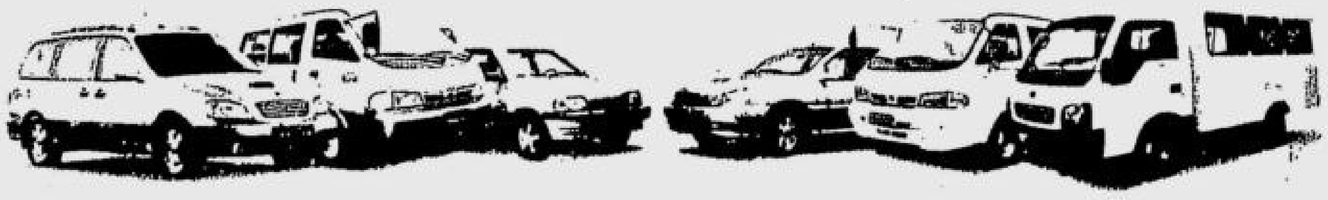

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Rescue mission turning point in AFP drive against Sayyaf

From page A1

Now that the hostages are out of the way, all impediments have been lifted and the military has no longer any reason to pull its punches.

It is unfortunate that Martin Burnham and Yap were killed. It is not clear who killed them. A military spokesperson said the Abu Sayyaf executed Martin.

The question is: If he were executed, why didn't the Abu Sayyaf also execute Gracia?

It is pointless to quibble over whether the victims were executed or were caught in the crossfire. In the annals of hostage rescues, lives have been lost and rescue efforts have exacted a price, with the Israeli commando rescue of highjack victims in Mogadishu airport possibly the only exception. After the rescue, the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf has entered a new chapter in which the skills gained by Filipino troops in the Balikatan joint exercises with US forces would come into full play.

From all evidence, the rescue operations were executed by Filipino troops, using US high-tech weapons that enabled them to pin down and to tighten the ring around the Abu Sayyaf force holding the Burnhams and Yap.

The Filipino soldiers flew the Chinook helicopters that swooped down on the encircled outlaws.

Too late

The agreement between Manila and Washington to allow US Special Forces trainers to join Filipino patrols deep into Abu Sayyaf hideouts on the company level came too late to be implemented in the combat zone.

The closing in on the Abu Sayyaf had been under way several weeks ago. Military intelligence established that the hostages had been moved to Zamboanga del Norte from Basilan.

The military made a feint by sustaining the perception that the campaign was centered on Basilan. In fact, the focus shifted more than a week ago to Zamboanga del Norte, and the shift was a well-kept secret and well-disguised move.

The rescue operations took place outside the Basilan-Zamboanga City zone defined by Balikatan 02-01. Within this zone, the more than 1,000 US forces participating in the exercises had a presence although on the battalion level, meaning at headquarters.

In the Zamboanga del Norte rescue, the military, in fact, opened a new front where it has now achieved some success.

We can now expect that with the hostage impediment out of the way, the military can now stage a relentless pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf groups in Zamboanga del Norte and will open new fronts in Basilan as well as in Sulu.

With the Abu Sayyaf on the run, its capacity to stage new abductions in retaliation has been largely diminished.

It is not known whether Abu Sabaya is in Zamboanga del Norte, but he has always been known to be with a group holding the hostages. The hostages were critical to the tactics of Abu Sayyaf in fending off assault.

Ransom

This brings us to the question of the ransom for the hostages. There were reports of private negotiations for the release of the Burnhams. The US and the Philippine governments, as a matter of official policy, have denied such negotiations through government intermediaries. If there were such negotiations, the talks apparently fell through.

At that stage, the Balikatan exercises had already been under way and Filipino patrols had deeply penetrated the Abu Sayyaf hideouts and were pushing the outlaws into pockets.

The Abu Sayyaf was on the defensive and the outlaws could have been aware that they had to hold on to the hostages as one of their cards to prevent an attack.

Thus, there was no chance that the ransom negotiations, if true, would have succeeded. So the outlaws clung for dear life to the hostage ace.

The military took a bold gamble, after identifying the location of the Abu Sayyaf force holding the hostages, by tightening the ring around the outlaws.

There was a big risk that the hostages would be killed in the rescue—either by being caught in the crossfire or by execution. Time was running out on the Balikatan exercises that are scheduled to end on July 31.

Enormous pressure was piling up on the exercises and on the military, in particular, to show results before the July 31 deadline.

There was also heavy domestic pressure on the administration of US President George W. Bush to secure the release of the Burnhams, who had been in captivity for more than one year.

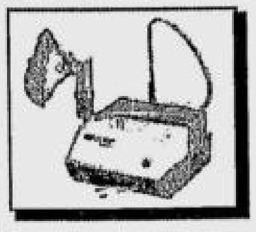
The Macapagal administration's policy of deep involvement in Bush's worldwide campaign against international terrorist networks linked to al-Qaida has come under stress.

All these converged in the Mindanao military campaign, resulting in a rescue that was applauded by Washington and the leading American newspapers like the New York Times, Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times despite the death of two hostages.

Now that the rescue has drawn blood, the Philippine government has pulled all stops on the military campaign.

What seems most obvious now is that the Philippine military has gained expertise and has enhanced its capacity to engage in specialized, hi-tech anti-terrorist campaign.

Whether the next phase of the campaign can crush the backbone of the Abu Sayyaf, however, remains to be seen.



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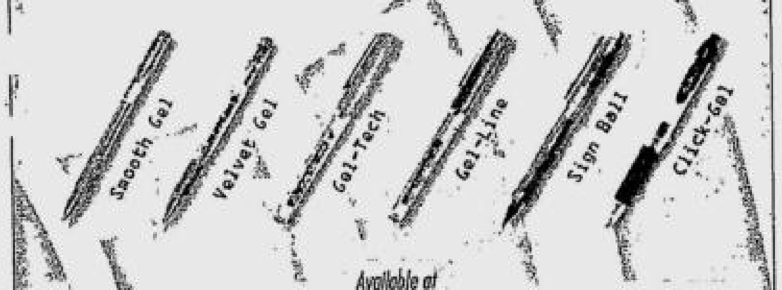

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EDITORIALS

War of attrition

THE NEWS from the jungles of Zamboanga del Norte has been bleak. Instead of a clear victory over the forces of evil, last Friday's firefight near the towns of Sibuco and Sirawai ended in the death of hostages Martin Burnham and Ediborah Yap, the wounding of Martin's wife Gracia, and the escape of top Abu Sayyaf leaders Abu Sabaya and Khaddafy Janjalani.

The ambiguity of the victory is best summed up in the question Gracia asked Army Scout Ranger Rodelio Tuazon immediately after her rescue: Did the military get Sabaya? Unfortunately for a nation still in the throes of a hostage crisis, the answer was no.

This is not to gainsay the sacrifices that the country's soldiers have made in the last year, in their pursuit of the bandits. Or the rescue of Gracia, whose husband had apparently used his body to shield her from the crossfire. We only mean to point out that unless the bandit group is totally destroyed, the country will continue to suffer a hostage crisis.

Consider the fate of Edwin Reseroni. The 28-year-old was abducted by the Abu Sayyaf on June 2 because the bandits needed someone familiar with the area to serve them as guide. He was rescued during the June 7 firefight, but the lesson of his experience is unmistakable: It is diabolically easy for the Abu Sayyaf to abduct new hostages.

Yesterday, the mayor of Sirawai raised the alarm. If the bandits slip from the military's grasp, he fears the kidnap-for-ransom group may again pounce on civilians—his constituents—and use them as human shields.

As it is, the military has only a very small window of opportunity to directly and unambiguously bring the war to the Abu Sayyaf. If the bandits, including a possibly wounded Sabaya, manage to elude the Armed Forces in the Philippines in the next few days in the jungles of Zamboanga del Norte, the country should brace for the worst: new hostages.

But Sabaya, who apparently slipped from Basilan island and its sizable military contingent of several thousand Filipino troops and several hundred American soldiers some two weeks ago, is not the Abu Sayyaf. There is a bigger group in Sulu, led by the likes of Commander Global—the same bandit leaders who pulled off the brazen raid in Sipadan, Malaysia, in April 2000, the very same ones who earned millions of dollars in ransom payments. What is the AFP doing about them?

We have yet to hear from defense and military officials about this potentially bigger headache. Sabaya's gang may be near the end of its rope, but the Abu Sayyaf of Sulu inhabit a bigger, more porous area, and they have some of the best weapons ransom money can buy. In this context, then, not even the capture or death of Sabaya, Janjalani or Isnilon Hapilon will signal the end of the hostage crisis.

If the nation—and the Burnhams' compatriots in Wichita, Kansas, and in Washington, D.C.—expected a swift and clear-cut resolution of the problem, last Friday's skirmish served as a violent reminder there is none. The war on terror is a war of attrition. It cannot be any other way. The nation must therefore learn to live with small and even ambiguous military victories, until the Abu Sayyaf menace is finally stricken—like the proverbial monster at the end of the known world—off the map.

War of perception

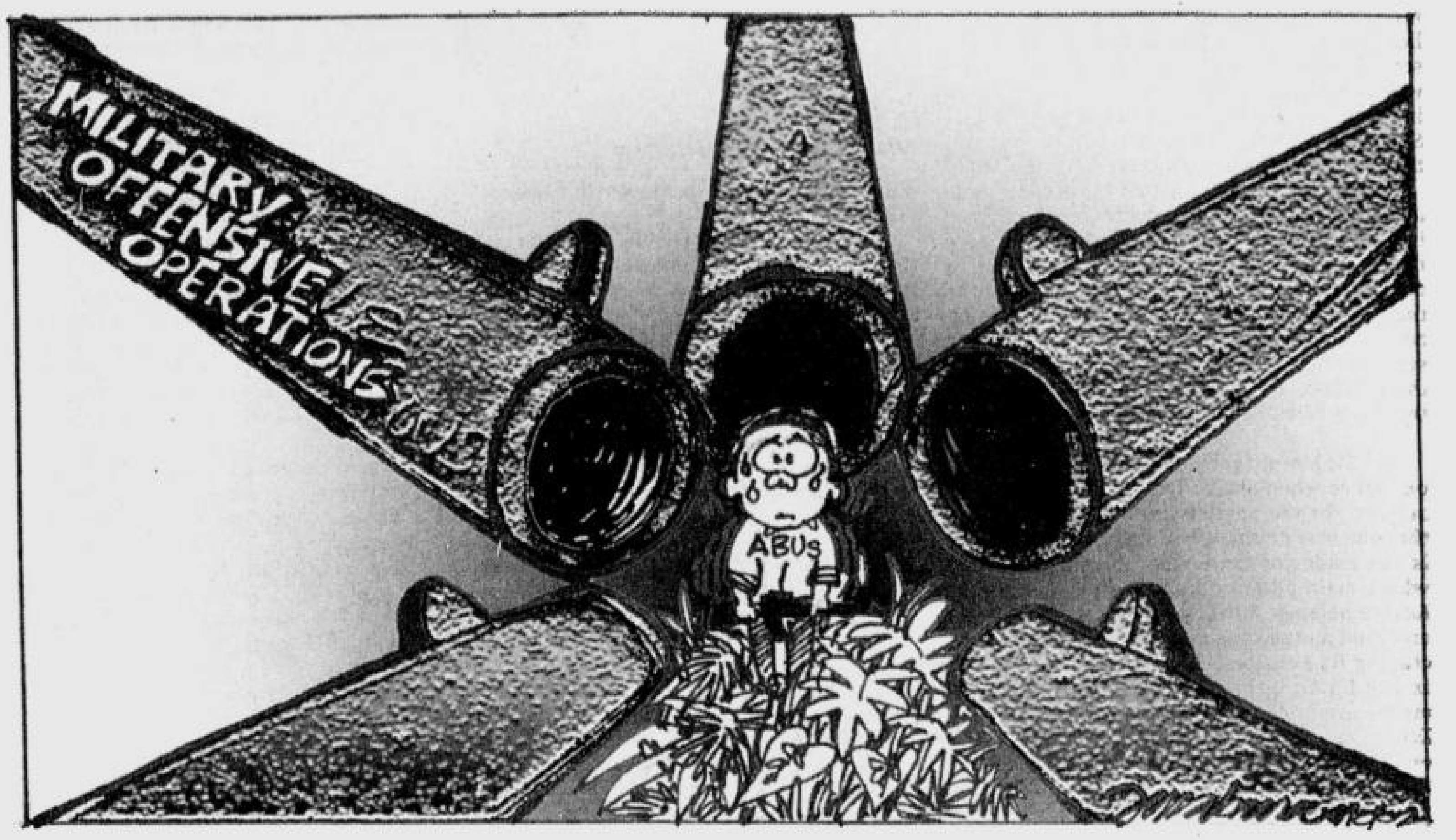
A PENTAGON spokesperson said over the weekend that American commanders participating in the Balikatan 02-1 training exercise were consulted on the rescue plans, but US help was confined to "planning and technical assistance."

The carefully chosen words do not merely confirm the absence of American soldiers in the firefight and from pursuit operations in general; they also acknowledge what the New York Times has called "a painful consequence of political constraints."

"This is a common problem in hostage rescues when host countries assert their sovereignty," Michael Vickers, a former Army Special Forces soldier, told the Times. "I'm sure there'll be a lot of second-guessing about what would have happened if this had been done by our elite counterterrorism forces."

But US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld declined to play the second-guessing game. "The attempt that was made to save their lives was understandable," he said. "You can be darn sure the people trying to do it cared deeply, and wanted to do it and wanted it to succeed."

The war to shape the American public's perception has also begun.



If anybody drops Mikey Arroyo's name, call the cops

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LIFE is full of risks but after what happened twice in less than a week, people are now asking which is riskier, to be taken hostage or to be rescued by the Pasay City police or the Philippine Army?

This is not a time for levity but people are saying that perhaps the soldiers who tried to rescue the Burnham couple and Ediborah Yap were really recycled Pasay City policemen sent to Zamboanga del Norte.

It is easy now to blame the rescuers for what happened but put yourself in the place of the soldiers. The jungle growth was thick, the Abu Sayyaf were hidden among the trees and undergrowth, visibility was very bad because it was raining hard, bullets were raining down on you, your buddies were getting hit, you couldn't distinguish between the bandits and the hostages who were, it was said, dressed in camouflage uniforms just like the bandits, precisely to confuse the soldiers. What would you do? You would fire back naturally.

Were Martin Burnham and Ediborah Yap executed by their kidnappers when they realized their rescuers were near or were they killed by "friendly fire"?

But, in the words of US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, it didn't matter whose bullets killed Martin Burnham. The Americans hold the Abu Sayyaf fully responsible for Martin's death, according to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

But now that all hostages are accounted for, the military can go hammer and tongs after the Abu Sayyaf. No more fear of hitting hostages. Anybody still out there must be a bandit.

There is the danger, though, that the Abu Sayyaf may take other hostages to use as human shields. So non-combatants should stay out of the area until the fighting is over. And those who are already there should evacuate immediately. Some members of the media, in their eagerness to get good stories, pictures and TV footage, sometimes get reckless.

Soldiers say it is very hard for them to fight in the Basilan terrain because it is thickly forested. That should be easy to solve. Call the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and let it issue timber licenses to loggers and the mountains will be bald in no time at all. No more forests for the Abu Sayyaf to hide in.

A big puzzle is how the Abu Sayyaf bandits were able to sail from Basilan to Zamboanga del Norte. That's a big expanse of water between them. Wasn't the Philippine Navy supposed to be patrolling the waters around Basilan? And didn't the military say that "a ring of steel" had been thrown around the island?

Well, the kidnappers were able to sneak through a military cordon around a small hospital. Why can't they sneak through a cordon around a big island?

* * *

The tragic events put a damper on the forthcoming wedding of presidential son Mikey Arroyo on June 24, which happens to be the feast day of St. John the Baptist and the anniversary of the founding of Manila. The wedding will be held in the old church in the Macapagal hometown of Lubao, Pampanga. It is said that many carabaos, cattle, pigs and chicken in Pampanga will lose their lives because of the wedding but Mikey told this writer that it won't be a grandiose affair. Mayors have volunteered to donate carabaos and cattle but there would be no grand feasting in the streets, said Mikey.

From Lubao, the wedding party will motor to Malacañang for another reception, but there will be no feasting there, either. Just cocktails and some apéritif. No sit-down dinner.

What are his political plans after the wedding?

Mikey said he wants to run for congressman of Pampanga, not governor. He thinks he can do more for his *cabalens* as a congressman.

What does he have to offer his provincemates?

"My honesty," Mikey replied. Indeed, the young man is known for this virtue; he has not been involved in any scandal. He gave me a thick list of what he has done in his province during the two years that he has been vice governor. As far as I know, not even a hint of any irregularity.

In fact, transparency and accountability are two of the guiding principles of Mikey. The others are integrity and competence in governance, and sincerity in public service.

What about his movie career, will he continue it? Yes, he will. As a matter of fact, he has a movie which was just premiered.

But Mikey has one complaint: There are still name-droppers using his name to get what they want from government offices. He asks his fellow government officials to call the police if anyone drops his name. Aside from the usual recommendations for job applicants to be hired to vacancies—but only if they are qualified—he does not sign anything for anybody, he said.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE:

A woman with her second husband in a bar points to an inebriated man drinking in a corner and says, "That's my ex-husband. He has been drinking for seven years now since we split up."

Says her present husband, "That's ridiculous. Nobody celebrates that long."

Inanities

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MIKE Enriquez had the right question. How was it possible for the Abu Sayyaf to have sneaked in from Basilan to the southern shores of Zamboanga when the entire area was crawling with AFP soldiers and several thousand American troops? Does it mean that despite military initiatives in that part of the country, indeed despite the counter-terrorist training presumably being held there, a small band of kidnappers managed to gain the capability to mount operations of that sort?

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez's answer was a masterpiece of inanity. He was at the GMA station when Enriquez, who was in Zamboanga, asked him that question. He replied that that was not the right perspective with which we should view what happened. The right perspective was that the military had carefully prepared this operation for nearly a year. Military intelligence had managed to pinpoint accurately the location of the Abu Sayyaf and their hostages, and the military had thence laid out a dragnet for them. When the time was ripe, they had pounced with lightning speed on their prey, bringing down four of them.

Of course, two of the three hostages ended up dead, the only one who managed to survive being Gracia Burnham. And of course, the dead Abu Sayyaf did not include any one of their top honchos. But the strike showed the Armed Forces of the Philippines at its best. All in all, Golez considered it a most successful one.

You have monumental bungling being called a success, military imbecility being called intelligence and national disaster being called national security, no wonder we're a mess. And no wonder the Abu Sayyaf continues to thrive despite the combined might of Philippine and American troops being thrown at it. A joke has been going around in text messages that people hope the bickering senators would be taken hostage and the Pasay City police sent to rescue them. We can only add to that that we hope the combined force of the Pasay City police and the troops in Basilan are sent to rescue them.

Lest the Americans feel exempt from this, that $5-million reward for the capture, dead or alive, of the Abu Sayyaf leaders should dispel it. You send several thousands of your presumably best fighters, you train local soldiers (who should know their terrain better to begin with) on how to fight their tormentors, you employ stealth planes and satellite trackers to zero in on the enemy, and in the end (as Linkin Park sings) you offer a bounty of $5 million to get the job done? Better they had stayed home and added to the bounty.

The inanity did not end there. When Enriquez pressed his point about the audacity, if not potency, of the Abu Sayyaf in being able to penetrate enemy territory, Golez produced an even more brilliant answer to it. That, he said, proved how effective the military had been in pursuing the Abu Sayyaf. The dogged pursuit drove the kidnappers to such desperate straits they had to resort to those lengths to try to get out of their predicament. Heaven forbid the military drives the Abu Sayyaf to even deeper levels of desperation. It may go to the extent of overrunning Metro Manila.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes would contribute his share to the inane proceedings. Asked what the military now intended to do in the wake of the murder of the Abu Sayyaf hostages, he said that they were taking the presidential orders deathly seriously. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered them to pursue the Abu Sayyaf relentlessly, never letting up on their efforts until the scourge was wiped out. That was exactly what they were going to do.

But, pray, what were Ms Macapagal's orders before? Take it easy, stop and smell the flowers while in the mountains? If the Abu Sayyaf should show resistance, retreat and let them take the field? If I remember right, the President kept telling the world in press conferences that she had ordered the AFP to push forward without pause and crush the Abu Sayyaf without fail. Indeed, if I remember right, she kept telling the world, particularly after even the faithful began to wonder why the "Balikatan" exercises were producing no effect after several months, that even as she spoke the Abu Sayyaf was on the run, its back been broken by the relentless military pursuit.

It had to take the deaths of a couple more hostages to drive the military to new heights of resolve?

The deaths of Martin Burnham and Ediborah Yap are tragic enough. But the even bigger tragedy is the renewed anti-Muslim or anti-Moro sentiment this is bound to spark in the country. The exchange between Mel Chanco and Arlyn de la Cruz hinted at it. De la Cruz explained the murderousness of the Abu Sayyaf as flowing from religious conviction, their interpretation of the Koran being to consider infidels as enemies whose destruction would please Allah. But, Chanco protested, other Muslim scholars said the Koran said nothing of the kind. Precisely, said De la Cruz, it was a matter of interpretation.

All of which made me wonder if we see at all a mirror in all this. Surely it should be obvious that Christianity itself is filled as much with angels as with devils, with batty fanatics as with saintly ascetics, with fascists like Pat Robertson and progressives like believers in liberation theology? The devil himself, as Shakespeare says profoundly insightfully, may quote Scriptures to suit his purposes.

Only recently, I heard a visiting official of VSO, Jenny Marshal, tell of her talk with a taxi driver on coming back from a visit to Mindanao. When the driver learned where she came from, he expostulated: "But why did you go there? That place is crawling with Moros." Easy to see the hate in other people. Not so easy to see the hate in us.

That is the greatest inanity of all.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

GMA's efforts to preserve coalition 'meddling'?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is being criticized by the Senate opposition for allegedly undermining its independence by campaigning among her allies to stick together. In fact, one of the reasons the opposition advanced in staging the coup was the supposed meddling by the executive branch in Senate affairs. They cited GMA's phone call to Sen. Ramon Revilla who's undergoing treatment in the United States as an example of such "meddling."

The irony, however, is that these complaints about Ms Macapagal's interference come from those in the Craven Eleven who had fought the opening of the second envelope at the impeachment trial, in compliance with the dictates of the former tenant of the Palace by the Pasig, who was then undergoing trial in the Senate for graft and corruption. The 11 senators showed that they would go to any extent to thwart justice. Some of them in fact participated in the Palace plot to suppress the evidence.

* * *

Did Ms Macapagal violate the Senate's independence when she called Revilla to seek his support for the administration bloc? I submit that she was justified in doing so because she is the leader of the People Power Coalition, whose main pillar is the Lakas party to which Revilla belongs. She campaigned hard for that coalition and anyone in her place, certainly including US President Bush with his own allies in the US Congress, would fight with every means available to save the congressional coalition, for on it would depend the passage of his or her priority legislative agenda. That's how the democratic process works.

* * *

Apparently, Ms Macapagal is not bothered by the criticism, for a few evenings ago she hosted a dinner in Malacañang for her Senate allies and her directive was: "reach out to your colleagues in the other bloc." This is being read as an order to woo opposition senators into the administration coalition. The directive seems to be taken seriously in the smaller chamber, for reports said that the four senators from both camps who met just before Monday's coup met again the other evening. The agreement was to have a ceasefire before anything else.

* * *

Among the biggest beneficiaries of the Senate revamp are cousins John and Serge Osmeña. The committee on energy, previously chaired by Sen. Rene Cayetano, was given to John Osmeña, who had targeted it in the first place, so that he would be able to grill former President Ramos on the purchased power adjustment issue. On the other hand, the committee on public services and franchises went to Serge. This means that the power sector is now completely in the hands of the two Osmeñas.

* * *

If the opposition prevails in the Senate, John Osmeña can rewrite the Epira and craft the notorious PPA the way he believes it should be. On the other hand, Serge Osmeña as franchises chair could fashion a franchise bill for the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) and Meralco. Transco is the nerve center of the power sector because all electricity generated by the independent power producers and the Napocor generating plants (all of them with financial problems) pass through Transco, which in turn allocates them to the electric companies all over the country, such as Meralco and electric cooperatives.

* * *

The interesting thing is that unlike the Napocor generating plants, Transco has no debts. But it will be sold first. Already questions are being asked why it should be first. The Meralco franchise is up for review.

The two Osmeñas will lord it over the power sector. The cousins may mean well, but unfortunately the perception of dominance won't go away as John's sister Annie is married to Louie Aboitiz, former chair of the family firm that controls power in the South, while Serge is married to Bettina Lopez of the clan that controls Meralco.

* * *

While Sen. John Osmeña was the trigger, reports indicate that Sen. Edgardo Angara was the brains behind the coup. One indication is that Demaree Raval, Angara's longtime aide in the Department of Agriculture during Erap's time and now in the Senate, has replaced Oscar Yabes as secretary of the Senate. Raval is remembered for being in the center of the Pacifico Marcelo fiasco in the Senate last year. It was he who wrote the speech exposing the alleged extortion activities of First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo in Marcelo's telecom firm. Raval offered the speech first to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, but when the latter refused, Sen. Panfilo Lacson picked it and used it.

The administration senators, however, maintain that Raval's appointment is illegal, just like the election of Sen. Blas Ople as Senate president pro tempore and Pimentel as majority leader. This is because Senate Rule No. 2 states that the top two posts and that of Senate secretary may be filled only by a majority vote of **all** senators (emphasis mine), not just of those present in the country.

* * *

Yabes' replacement by Raval may be a matter of interpretation, but the opposition's replacement of two Senate career officials has sent shivers of nervousness and demoralization among the rank and file. Deputy secretary for legislation Emma Reyes and Deputy secretary for external affairs Peter Paul Pineda have been with the Senate since its reopening in 1987, and their posts are not co-terminus with the appointing power. But recently they were replaced by the new majority with their own people, causing a lot of apprehension among the Senate employees.

Drilon sought to allay this by issuing two memos assuring them that no one will be fired. He is expected to reiterate this at this morning's flag ceremony.

Celibacy: problem or solution?

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

THE CURRENT public fixation on sex-abuse scandals by American Catholic clergymen, spilling over to the predominantly Catholic Filipino population, has generated a gamut of reactions, ranging from condemnation, denial, nonchalance and even the Filipino penchant for jokes. In this season of op-ed galore, it has become not uncommon to link the problem to the issue of celibacy.

Nonetheless, I have not come across a single opinion that has tried to explore the Church history of celibacy. Probably because it is an academic field of specialization that is open only to theologians, very few of whom are laypeople, Church history is unknown to many Catholics.

Recently, a respectable American Catholic writer and EWTN television anchor, Raymond Arroyo, delved into the issue from the Church's historical perspective. In addition, Arroyo cited recent statistics from well-regarded US research institutions.

Arroyo's information makes for a sober yet unrestrained addition to the plethora of discussions on the matter.

In an age of increasing religious cynicism and liberal sexual lifestyles, celibacy has become more of a contradiction. It is thus easy to say that there is a direct link between sex abuse by priests and the vow of celibacy. The common excuse offered by those who left the priesthood to get married is that celibacy was never part of Church tradition before 1139. Arroyo's illuminating evidence, however, shows that it wasn't so.

When Pope Gregory VII declared celibacy mandatory in 1139, he merely upheld what already was more than 10 centuries of Church tradition on celibacy, he says. "From the time of Christ forward, celibacy was the Catholic norm for priests—married clergy were merely tolerated." Arroyo cites statements, one by Christ himself in Matthew's Gospel, another by the celibate St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians, that both lauded celibacy. "Certainly by the 4th century there is little doubt where the Church stood on the matter."

The first papal decree on celibacy was in fact issued as early as 385 by Pope Siricius. Five years later, this was fortified by the Council of Carthage, when it upheld what "previous councils have decreed that bishops, priests, and deacons must be continent and perfectly chaste, as becomes ministers of God...as the Apostles taught." Then in 633, the Council of Toledo required a bishop's permission for a priest to marry. Arroyo thus concludes that Pope Gregory VII merely formalized in law what already was the general practice for centuries.

I recall what one ex-priest told me years ago that celibacy was instituted to protect Church land rights. Arroyo's treatise explores a totally different view. Starting in the third century, he says, married priests were required to abstain from sex the night before offering Mass. "The notion being: separate yourselves from the worldly and focus on the transcendent." Thus, sexual abstinence became proportional as the demand for the sacraments increased. A practice rooted in tradition evolved over time and eventually was codified into law.

Filipino media people fixated on surveys and polls may find Arroyo's statistics a revelation. A study made by the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1992 reviewed some 2,252 priest personnel files. The study found 40 priests—1.8 percent—had been guilty of sexual misconduct at some point in their ministry. Of the 40, only one was a pedophile.

Another study, done by Prof. Philip Jenkins of Pennsylvania State University, revealed that a mere .3 percent of priests were pedophiles. In contrast, US studies on pedophilia reveal that anywhere from 3 to 8 percent of cases are committed by married men.

A Christian Ministry Resource Survey also concluded that of the 3,500 sex-abuse allegations a year in the United States, roughly 70 a week took place in non-Catholic Christian denominations where married clergy predominate. Clearly, there does not seem to be a scientific link between celibacy and sexual abuse.

The line of thinking that married priests will not commit sexual abuse merely "reduces women to little more than child-protection devices," Arroyo says. It is interesting to juxtapose this to Philippine crime statistics where many sexual abuse cases are committed by married men.

Sex scandals by priests were not caused by celibacy. These scandals were caused by a lack of celibacy.

This dark period in church history is a period of atonement, as INQUIRER online columnist Fr. Roy Cimagala of Cebu has proposed. It will therefore not help if priests resort to the denial or indifference mode. One priest in his homily told the congregation not to worry, as "anyway the sacraments are still valid even if your priests commit sexual misconduct."

Another priest said also in his homily that these allegations are unfair. In addition, he said, the law on sexual harassment is unfair, "for it is women who are the usual sexual harassers."

If we are to paraphrase his statement, it is like saying that celibacy is indeed the problem. The need may arise to send some priests back to the seminary as part of that atonement agenda.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

High tuition due to free public schools

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

BASIC education gets its share of media attention and serious discussion only during this very short season before school opens. It is a topic largely ignored the rest of the time. So forbear my recent concentration upon it, as public attention will soon waver and wane. That happens after the parents bitterly part with a substantial proportion of the family's wealth, and will want to think and hear nothing more about education for another year.

Tuition in most private schools in the country is at an all-time high. Hair-raising increases are an annual cause of discontent as the price of good education skyrockets to stratospheric heights. Greed is a moralistically satisfying and automatic explanation, but let us not encourage socialist suicide in our policymakers by flirting with overregulation and the opportunities for extortion it would engender.

Meanwhile, tuition in all public schools in the country is still at an all-time low, meaning to say, zero or tuition-free. Subsidized by an annual budget of over P100 billion, the education department has over 450,000 government employees. Most of these are teachers, the indentured servants of the Commission on Elections come election time.

Basic public education in the Philippines is one of the shortest in the world, consisting of six years in elementary school and four years in high school. In the year 2000, Department of Education records show there were 17.85 million school-age Filipinos in the 35,757 public and 3,555 private elementary schools; and 4,193 public and 2,935 private high schools in the country.

Now how can we explain the paradox, which seems to contradict the basic laws of supply and demand, that everyone who is above socioeconomic subsistence level has their kids in the "exorbitant" private school system when there is this "tuition-free" public school system? Why is public school quickly forsaken by any Filipino family that gains the smallest economic advance beyond the pit of poverty? Many Filipino parents will scrape together whatever it takes to send their kids to the best schools they can afford, preferably a good private school.

Well, it's no secret why. Fair or not, the quality of basic education in the public school system is perceived to be unacceptably low. Perhaps Filipino parents know you have to pay for a good education, in time, money and dedication.

Even for those in public schools, education is a significant financial burden. Public schools collect many different kinds of fees and forced contributions. Parents must shoulder food and transportation costs, buy school supplies, shoes and clothing, for their school-age kids. For the poorest families, these expenses can make up a significant percentage of household income. More's the pity that they also get short shrift in educational quality and content, which is what the controversy over the 2002 Basic Education Curriculum is really all about. But that's another matter.

High tuition can only be brought down by competition in a free and fair market. But the existence of tuition-free public schools is a disincentive to private investment in education. Few, if any, new schools are being established to challenge the existing providers because they cannot compete against public schools for enrollees.

Now, what would happen to the number of private schools and their tuition if the government, by some stroke of genius or madness, were to selectively abolish the most cost-inefficient public schools in each locality, its worst financial sinkholes? That is to ask, what would happen if the government were to leave a bigger part of basic education to the private sector, to the "greedy" nuns and priests and to the "profit hungry" but entrepreneurial folks that run those high-priced but effective private schools?

The resulting huge number of students needing to enroll in private grade schools would roughly triple the number of such schools to more than 10,000 just by privatizing 20 percent, or 7,000 of the existing public elementary schools. Many of the new schools could be organized by local coops and run by former public school teachers and administrators with backing from their own local communities and investors. They could offer very competitive prices. Of course, existing private schools could also expand and offer lower prices to more students. Best of all, curriculum content and language of instruction do not have to be dictated from a room in Pasig City.

The presence of tuition-free public schools prevents the development of low-cost, high quality schools. In short, public schools "unfairly compete" with private schools, to the nation's everlasting detriment.

Only the truly indigent should be allowed to avail themselves of "tuition-free" public schools. I think that the legendary Filipino dedication to education is not so universal as we ballyhoo it to be. There may be a lot of free-riders in the public school system who can actually afford to send their kids to private schools, or ought to be goaded into doing so by the spurs of enlightened policy. If we must run our public school system like a charity ward, let the government dedicate its limited resources to helping only the truly needy, or the truly gifted and deserving.

It can also spend its budget more effectively on the training-starved teachers, the error-besotted textbooks and the nonexistent facilities. Fewer but better public schools would also drive down the cost of private schools by competing with them more effectively. It is public schools that ought to have elite status.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Disappointing letter

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

ALTHOUGH the letter I will discuss below does not have a direct bearing on the subject matter of this column, it touches on something that many readers often are passionate about: the correct use of the English language.

The INQUIRER receives numerous letters from its readers calling its attention to grammatical errors. Apparently, there is a corps of silent proofreaders out there who have made it their mission in life to review the pages of the newspaper for lapses in grammar. The newspaper is happy about their presence because they keep its proofreaders on their toes.

Today's letter came from a mass communication student of a Manila-based college. To protect the reputation of the student and her school, I deleted some parts of the letter that may give away their identities. I am reprinting the letter exactly the way it was written. It reads:

"I am ..., a Mass Communication student of ... I really admired and appreciated the authenticity, truthfulness and the dedicated service you've rendering to the Filipino people.

"In connection with, as a Masscom student I wanna develop my skills in the field of writing. And besides, my professor required me to wrote an article and to be published in the newspaper before the Mid-term examination. This is the reason why I sent to you my article entitled "Why do people corrupt?"

"And another reason is I wanna expressed the voice of the youth like me that corruption is the most toxic phenomena nowadays which it cannot eliminate without working hand on hand to go against corruption. (like Erap case)

"I choose your respected company among others because I trusted in you. With the voluminous newspaper distributor in the Philippines, only PDI I trusted for. I hope for the immediate publish of my article. Thank you for granting my request."

Unacceptable

A two-page article about corruption accompanied the letter. Not surprisingly, the quality of the article was no different from the covering letter. Here are excerpts from the article:

- "There are incongruous kinds of corruption being practiced and they are not just a symtoms of society's incurable sickness but a crime-widespread universal crime."
- "People are insatiable despite of their good livelihood."
- "Most people ignore corruption but it still affect us that's why we should become more scrupulous about our environment and be sagacious in putting officials in power because it is us—the poor who will always be the flounders."

Although the reader did not say it, it was apparent she wanted her article to be published in the Youngblood section of the INQUIRER. The newspaper receives, through e-mail, fax and mail, an average of 10 articles a day for this section.

The articles submitted undergo a strict screening process to make sure only the best see print. Looking at the articles so far published, there is reason to believe that many of the authors have the potential to become good journalists in the future.

After reading the reader's article, I decided against sending it to the opinion editor for his consideration. I wanted to spare him from a heart attack. There was no way the article would get past the first stage. The editor would have thrown it to the wastebasket after reading the first paragraph.

Although it is not fair to use this letter as a gauge in determining the proficiency of majority of the Filipinos in the use of English, I think it somehow reflects the state of the English language in our country.

Lest it be misconstrued, it is not my intention to insult the reader. The only reason I discussed her letter is that I wanted to highlight the depths to which the quality of English usage has gone down in our country.

If a mass communication student can commit those errors, I can just imagine how other students, who do not have the same level of exposure to English, are faring.

Unwanted letters

Still on the subject of letters from the readers, I am amused by the kinds of letters I have been receiving. It seems some readers consider this column an extension of the letters section or a means through which complaints about anything under the sun can be sent to the proper offices.

On top of my list of "unwanted" letters are those coming from readers who send me documents that allegedly show anomalies in the award of government contracts. These letters often have enclosures that are the equivalent of four trees. Because the documents are brought to the office by personal courier, the delivery costs are definitely not cheap.

As I do not have the staff to review these documents and determine where they should be endorsed, they inevitably wind up in the wastebasket. So to those who may be similarly minded, I suggest you send your letters to the Office of the Ombudsman which is mandated by our Constitution to look into anomalies in the government.

Then there are the readers who complain about the problems that beset their communities and ask the INQUIRER to lead a campaign to solve the problems or write investigative reports on them so that the government officials concerned would act accordingly.

Sorry guys, but the editorial staff already has its hands full researching and reporting on the issues and controversies of national magnitude. Rather than waste your time writing about the problem, why don't you instead do something about it within the limits of your capability?

To the readers who are soliciting money for charitable institutions or benevolent projects, my advice is to go elsewhere because whatever funds the INQUIRER may have for humanitarian objectives have already been pre-allocated to its favorite charities.

Finally, may I remind those who send me e-mail asking for information about certain events and addresses of social and movie personalities that they can drop by the INQUIRER library and use its data base on events that were reported by the newspaper.

With regard to the addresses of the personalities mentioned, please direct your requests to the movie tabloids and magazines that have made it their business to monitor the lives of those people.

Except for the letters mentioned above, the rest have been delightful to read, answer and share with the readers.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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AC/DC good for radio, bad for the Senate

I HAVE a radio which serves me well during emergencies. When there is a power failure, I use batteries to keep me informed about many things, e.g., the cause of the power failure and the extent of the blackout. My radio is AC/DC and its versatility serves me and my family right.

However, this kind of versatility or convertibility does not do our Senate any good. It can lead to a constitutional crisis, which our country needs like a hole in the head.

Take the case of Sen. John Osmeña. He was a member of the Erap faction in the Senate before Edsa II. After the 2001 elections, he switched to the administration party of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the Senate, on condition that he be allowed to keep the chairmanship of the powerful finance committee.

I told myself then that the present administration was committing a terrible mistake when it took in Sonny Osmeña (and practically drove his cousin Serge to the opposition in the Senate).

True to form, Sonny Osmeña switched sides again and tilted the balance in the Senate. With Sen. Ramon Revilla recuperating from an operation in the United States, the head count in the Senate is 12-11 in favor of the opposition. This has allowed the latter to disturb the status quo in the chamber, but it cannot elect a new Senate president without having 13 votes. Anyway, this does not sound good for the country.

The latest caper of Sonny Osmeña will certainly find a responsive chord in Erap and titillate Sen. Edgardo Angara, who has been aspiring for the Senate presidency and give comfort to his fallen president.

Meanwhile, the legislative mill in the Senate grinds to a halt while the wrangling goes on.

Me, I'll stick to my AC/DC radio. Its convertibility is man-made. I can manipulate it for a good purpose. It cannot act on its own, because it is not a product of nature.

—LEONCIO DE MESA,
University of the
Philippines, Diliman,
Quezon City

Nation seeks new politics

WE are incensed by the still ongoing desecration of the office our people have entrusted to senators and congressmen. These are the kind of characters who should not be returned to public office.

Padlock the doors of the Senate and the House until our people attain enough maturity to elect men and women who will not be impervious to the common good, whose character will respect the stewardship which God will allow them the privilege of carrying out.

We need leaders who are fit to guide our children and children's children to a future of true freedom, respect for law and order, decency and morality in public as well as private life.

We have said it before and we will say it again: Let us not recycle human garbage. Let us not subject the poisoned blood of politicians to dialysis. Instead, let us sterilize political genes.

Let us begin all over again with a new kind of politics—a politics that is focused more on moral principles than what is politically expedient; more on the needs of the poor and vulnerable than the contributions of the rich and the powerful; more on the pursuit of the common good than the demands of special interests; and more on the culture of life than the culture of death and violence.

Whatever system of government we install will not work unless we transform ourselves and society. There is hope. But we must work much harder to deserve the future we have been dreaming of for too long. Let us begin now.

God save the Philippines.

—PETER-PAUL S. BAUTISTA, RICARDO BOLIPATA, RAUL L. CONTRERAS, MANUEL K. DAYRIT, JESUS DE LA FUENTE, DEAN O. DE LA PAZ, BALTAZAR N. ENDRIGA, MARIO E. ONGKIKO, NANDY PACHECO, METODIO PALAYPAY, ISABEL B. PILAR, ADRIAN SISON, 54 Katipunan Rd., White Plains, Quezon City

Lessons from latest Senate coup

THE LATEST Senate power play offers some valuable lessons. Here are some of them.

1. Sonny Osmeña can never be trusted.

2. Nene Pimentel's dream of regaining the Senate presidency lives on.

3. Ping Lacson wields considerable influence within the anti-administration cabal.

4. Malacañang obviously does not control the Senate.

5. A coalition based on political compromises, not on common principles will not last.

6. We got the kind of Senate we have as punishment for electing characters like Loi Estrada and Robert Jaworski, instead of people like Winnie Monsod and Boy Herrera.

7. There is more than one Joker in the Senate.

8. For the very first time in Philippine history, the House of Representatives is surprisingly proving to be more responsible and better managed compared to the Senate!

9. When the fate of the Senate hangs on the vote of Ramon Revilla, something in the picture is very wrong.

10. The current Senate circus provides the NBA finals and the Tyson-Lewis fight a very strong challenge as the most entertaining show of the month!

—ED DAMES, 23 Bagong Anyo St., De Castro Subd., Sta. Lucia, Pasig City

Sleeping pills can have serious side effects

I WISH to make some clarifications with regard to the article of Neal Cruz last May 28. While I appreciate the humor of citing the use of sleeping pills as an effective "contraceptive," I have to correct the statement saying that sleeping pills are safe and without side effects.

Far from it, sleeping pills, which is the layman's term for various forms of sedatives—hypnotics, anxiolytics and tranquilizers—do have serious side effects. These include accidents, central nervous system and respiratory depression and lowering of blood pressure. They are particularly harmful when mixed with alcohol or some other drugs (so check the product label and consult a doctor or pharmacist) in some cases. When used for long periods, tolerance effects are observed and abuse of these sleeping pills occurs, leading to drug dependency and withdrawal symptoms when abuse and misuse of these drugs are suddenly stopped. A few of the benzodiazepines sometimes even give some amnesic effects. Many of these sleeping pills are regulated by the Dangerous Drugs Board.

These sleeping pills are prescription drugs and should thus not be made available without a doctor's prescription. We have seen quite a number of "hooked" patients who have illegal access to these drugs through various drugstores. We have also noted quite a few cases of victims of criminal doping (lacing sleeping pills into drinks of unsuspecting individuals).

We hope this letter will help people understand that all medicines have adverse effects. One way to minimize the risk of harm is through education and regulation. Proper use by patients and supervision by health professionals will also help.

—KENNETH Y. HARTIGAN-GO, MD, executive director, The Zuellig Foundation, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

Solid INC vote is a matter of doctrine

THE PAST tirades of your columnist Isagani Cruz against the Iglesia ni Cristo were casually allowed to pass because the INC did not wish to dignify his column that obviously feeds on hearsay. I believe the church still maintains the same posture relative to the writer's latest column against the INC and its members. (PDI, 5/25/02)

As a member though, I find it both my duty and obligation to respond. Individual members are duty-bound to defend their faith, especially so when the accusation is patently unfair and, therefore, need to be rectified. As a member of the Philippine Bar, I feel obliged to remind the writer (a retired justice of the Supreme Court) of the need to be more circumspect considering his stature and the "impact" of his column on the reading public.

Cruz's poisoned pen referred to the INC as one of the "religious groups that have cropped up lately (and) have become a powerful political force so strong as to be able—some for a fee—to dictate the outcome of any election," and a religious group "whose following are from the *bakya* crowd" and "mostly unthinking voters" who "trooped to the polls at the command of their high priests to vote for Erap."

The diatribe is most unfair, if not unkind. It does not speak well of the writer's much-vaunted moral dignity. He did not even bother to inquire on the modality by which the church casts its collective vote and the reason it seals its vote in such fashion.

The undersigned, an ordinary lawyer who happened to be associated with the *bakya* crowd, respectfully informs the retired justice that unity in the INC, be it in voting or in other religious exercises, is fundamentally doctrinal—not focal. Our unity is far more important for us church members than the outcome of the election. To the church, unity in voting is a doctrinal end in itself, irrespective of the candidate's personality and whether he wins or loses.

The church's unity lies at the very core of faithful obedience—a phenomenon that the church where writer Cruz belongs can only hope to replicate. But why would he bellyache about the INC's voting system when he himself claimed in his column that this "combination of mostly unthinking voters was hardly a spiritual force" to reckon with and that "religion embraces matters of faith and dogma as well as doubt, agnosticism and atheism"? Suppose the INC supported his candidate, will Cruz still unkindly refer to its members as "mostly unthinking voters" that come "from the *bakya* crowd"?

Of course, Cruz was correct in pointing out that in this country, the problem is not so much the interference of the state in church affairs as the interference of the church in state affairs. Unfortunately he stopped there. He did not go on to castigate Jaime Cardinal Sin for his dominant role not only in directly interfering in state affairs but also for his active involvement in overthrowing a duly elected president and thus, weakening the otherwise stable and strong foundations of our democracy. Does Cruz intend to devote a column on current issues confronting the Catholic Church today, i.e., the sex scandal involving priests and the CBCP Internet fiasco? Why did he not rebuke the Catholic Church for accepting donations from Pagcor if only to show his objectivity and consistency? And how can he forget the basic truism that accusation cannot be substituted for evidence? And why was Cruz oblivious of the painful lessons of recorded history: that it was the Catholic Church that meddled into the affairs of governments?

I wish Cruz could have been more specific. Which of the two religious groups he mentioned in his column is "a powerful political force so strong as to be able—some for a fee—to dictate the outcome of any election"? It might just be the crowning glory of this ordinary lawyer's career to see a former justice, who obviously represents the elite, defend himself—this time in a court of law for his libelous indiscretion.

—RODANTE D. MARCOLETA, 3/F Padilla Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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See posters for more details.

Per DTI Permit No. 0179, series of 2002

3 House leaders assail Failon

By C. Avendaño

THREE House leaders yesterday hit back at Leyte Rep. Ted Failon as they defended a plan to renovate the House session hall.

Representatives Robert Ace Barbers, Rodolfo Albano and Prospero Nograles lashed at Failon for his statements that they said were "an undisguised propaganda shot to link the House renovation work to the Senate leadership row."

They were reacting to Failon's statement the other day asking the House leadership to explain the planned renovation.

In a statement, Barbers, who chairs the House accounts committee, clarified that the total renovation cost was P15 million, and not P150 million as Failon claimed the other day.

Barbers said the renovations had long been planned and basically involved changing the floor surface and repairing ceiling leaks at the session hall—a problem noted since the 11th Congress.

Many House members have long complained about the leaking ceiling and have clamored for the repair of the "dilapidated and two decades-old surface of the session hall, he said.

"It is only now that we responded because of the absolute necessity of refurbishing the session hall," Barbers said.

The repair work will cost P7.5 million but expenses could reach P15 million because the House will also acquire the initial batch of Pentium IV computers for the use of members of the House and the Secretariat.

Key witness vs Erap set to testify

By V. Contreras

MA. Carmencita "Menchu" Itchon, a key witness against deposed President Joseph Estrada, is expected to take the stand this week as prosecutors dig deeper into the *jueteng* payola scandal.

Assistant Ombudsman Dennis Villa-Ignacio said Itchon may testify today after the cross-examination of Equitable-PCIBank, Kalaw, branch manager Vergel Pabillon.

In the Estrada impeachment trial, Itchon said Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson had "211" phone conversations in 13 months with Yolanda Ricaforte, the alleged "auditor" of Estrada's monthly take from bigtime gambling lords.

A certified public accountant, Itchon then served as a secretary of Singson, the self-confessed "bagman" of Estrada's alleged jueteng collections.

Villa-Ignacio said Ichon's testimony will start establishing the "nature" of the multimillion-peso deposits made by Ricaforte in various EPCIB branches in Metro Manila, as earlier recounted in court by Pabillon and fellow bank managers.

Singson himself will be up next at the stand right after Itchon, Villa-Ignacio said.

The Sandiganbayan is treating the hearings on the jueteng scandal as basis on whether Estrada's co-accused son Jinggoy can be granted bail.

The younger Estrada applied for bail on grounds that he was only implicated in "juetengate" out of the four predicate crimes making up the plunder case against his father.

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Gas A/T	740,000	100,000	29,706	21,192
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Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	114,000	30,911	22,051
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Diesel M/T	670,000	335,000	+27,917	19,299	10,960	7,745
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	352,500	+29,375	+19,583	11,207	7,918
Gas A/T	740,000	370,000	+30,833	+20,556	11,593	8,189
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	360,000	+30,000	+20,000	11,373	8,034
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	385,000	+32,083	+21,389	12,405	8,766
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	375,000	+31,250	21,516	12,219	8,635
Gas A/T	790,000	395,000	+32,917	22,779	12,935	9,142

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

War fears lessening but shelling continues

NEW DELHI—India and Pakistan are toning down their war rhetoric and sounding more conciliatory, but shelling resumed Sunday across the line that divides Kashmir and killed seven civilians in Pakistan.

Pakistan Television said the deadly firing by India's military hit parts of Pakistan next to Kashmir, as it often does, and also wounded several people who were hospitalized.

The shooting raged on despite statements from both sides on Saturday that tensions were easing in the standoff that has had the nuclear-armed rivals on the brink of war for about six months.

In the Indian portion of Kashmir, Pakistani fire destroyed a television tower and wounded three people in a bus that was hit in the Punch sector, which is 200 km north of Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, a police officer said.

Gunmen, suspected to be separatist guerrillas, dragged four Muslim brothers out of their home and shot them to death—apparently believing they were police informants—in a remote mountain village on the Indian side, the police officer said on condition of anonymity.

No one claimed responsibility for the killings in Barneli in Udhampur district, 140 km north of Jammu, the officer said.

Authorities in Pakistan's portion of Kashmir reported heavy firing by both sides in the Kahuta Forward area, in the Bagh district, nearly 100 km southeast of the province capital Muzaffarabad.

Police said the Indian fire let up briefly on Saturday night, giving frightened civilians on Pakistan's side a chance to pack up and flee before the shelling resumed on Sunday.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their past three wars over Kashmir and there have been fears swirling that they would get caught up in a fourth war ever since Muslim militants launched a deadly attack on India's Parliament in December. India said Pakistan's spy agency backed the attack, a charge denied by Pakistan.

Leaders of other nations, including the United States, Britain and Russia, have been urging a peaceful resolution, and a US envoy who visited India and Pakistan last week said tensions have come down "measurably."

The Indian government said Saturday that Pakistan appeared to be making moves "in the right direction" and Islamabad said the "ice has broken."

But India is insisting that Pakistan end cross-border terrorism by Muslim militants who want Kashmir to either gain independence or to be merged with Islamic Pakistan.

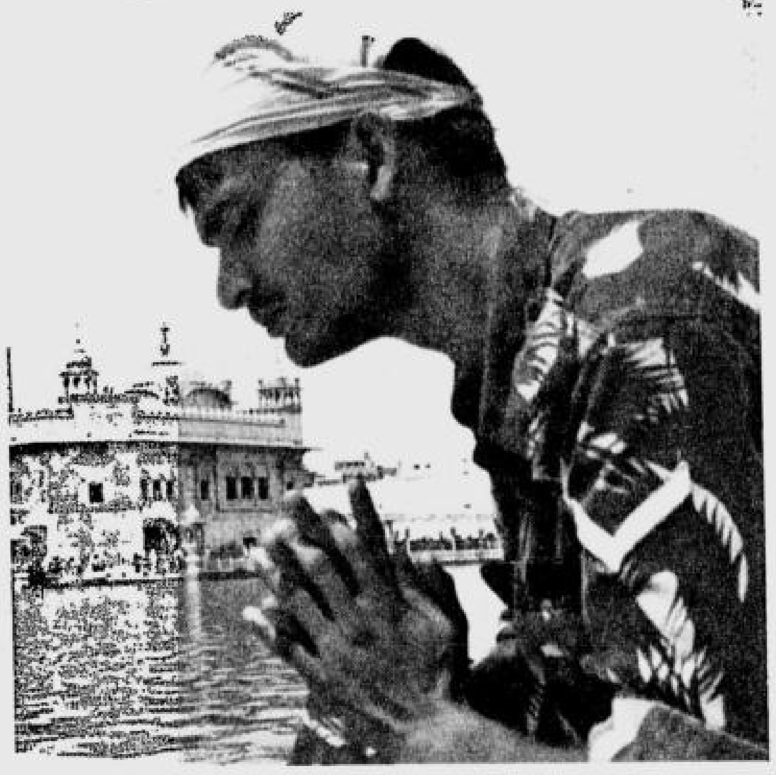
Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has pledged to end the cross-border infiltration and India indicated it would wait to see whether it can detect improvements on the ground in Kashmir.

"I think you couldn't say the crisis is over, but I think you could say the tensions are down measurably," US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said Saturday in Estonia, where he went after meeting with Musharraf in Islamabad and then with Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi.

Armitage said the Indian leadership might return some diplomats to Islamabad and had discussed "some ratcheting down of some sort of military tension."

The conciliatory statement from India came as no surprise as tensions had been easing, said J.N. Dixit, an Indian analyst who formerly served as a top foreign ministry official and was ambassador to Pakistan.

"But it is too early to say that Pakistan has completely stopped incursions by Islamic militants," Dixit said. "One has to wait and see." *AP*



AN INDIAN soldier prays for peace with Pakistan on the grounds of the Golden Temple in the northern Indian city of Amritsar near the border. REUTERS

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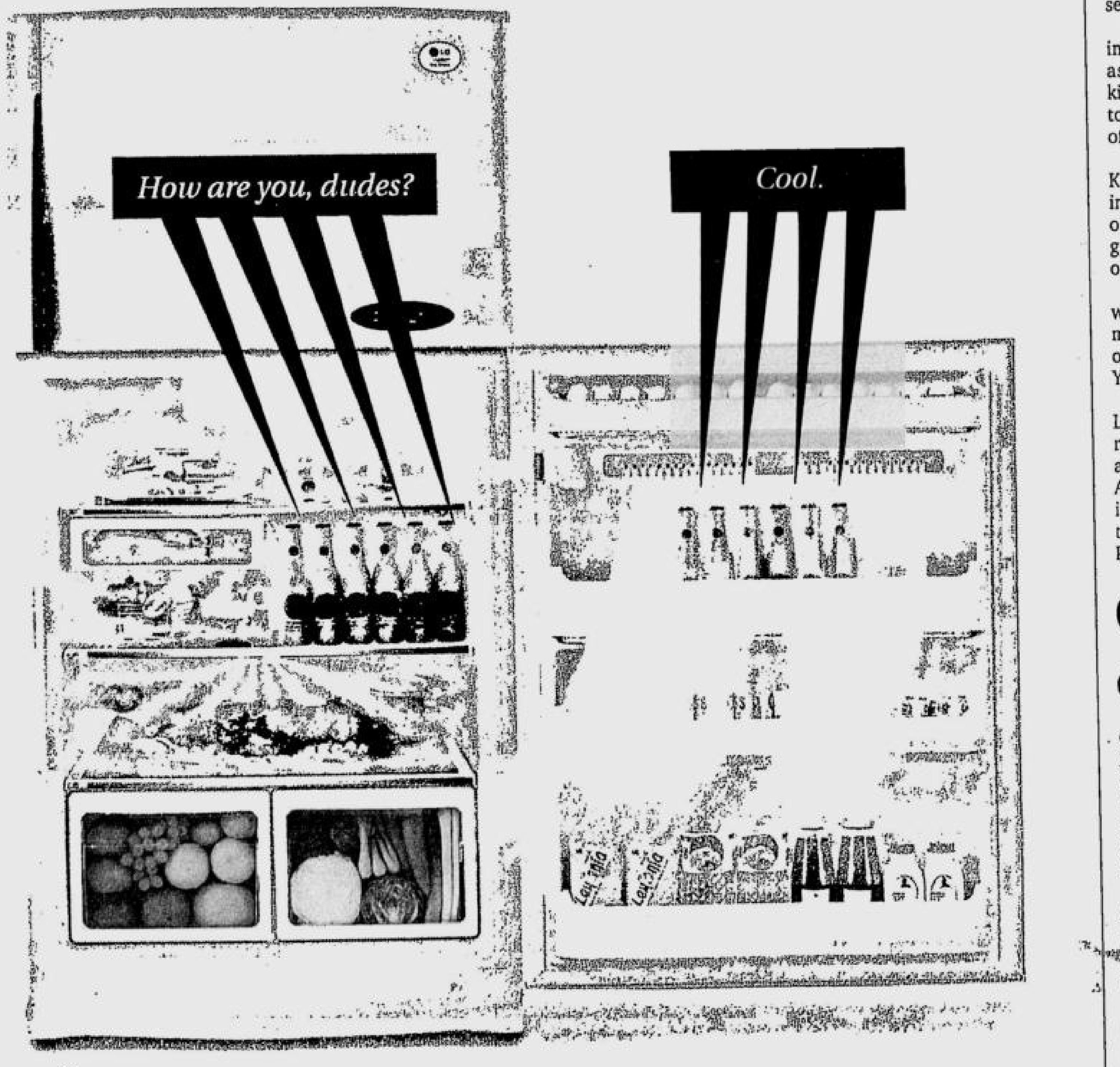

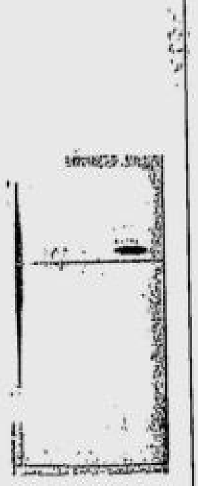

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Sharon travels to US amid day of funerals

JERUSALEM—As Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon traveled to Washington for talks with US President George W. Bush, it was a day of funerals Sunday in the Middle East, where three Israelis, including a pregnant woman, and seven armed Palestinians were killed a day earlier.

The militant Islamic group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack early Saturday on a fledgling mobile home community in the Jewish settlement of Karmei Tzur in which the woman, her husband and an Israeli reserve soldier were killed.

One of the armed Palestinian infiltrators, identified by Hamas as Ahmed Masalme, was also killed. A second gunman escaped to the nearby Palestinian village of Halhoul.

David Turjeman, a settler from Karmei Tzur who was wounded in the late-night attack, said one of the gunman was dressed in a green uniform and had a helmet on his head.

Four Israelis soldiers were wounded and a Palestinian gunman was killed in a similar attack on the West Bank settlement of Yitzhar on Saturday night.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for that shooting and identified the gunman as Ahmed Hammad, 18. The group issued a leaflet vowing to "continue its struggle for liberating Palestine."

Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers on Sunday entered Hammad's West Bank village, Asira al-Kabliya, and imposed a curfew on the residents, villagers said.

The more than 100 Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been frequent targets of Palestinian militants.

Palestinians want the settlements dismantled as part of a Mideast peace agreement, Sharon, a longtime champion of Jewish settlements, says he is not prepared to consider removing them.

Two heavily armed Palestinians who tried to swim along the Mediterranean coastline, from the Gaza Strip into Israel, intended to mow down civilians bathing on the beaches of southern Israel, an Army officer said Sunday.

The two were detected by women naval personnel operating a shore observation station near the northern edge of the Gaza Strip, an officer at the facility said. Both were shot.

One body washed ashore Saturday and a second washed up Sunday.

The two men were identified as members of the militant group Islamic Jihad. A bag belonging to one of the gunmen was found along with automatic rifles and grenades, the army said. *AP*

Chavez accuses media of provoking rebellion

CARACAS, Venezuela—President Hugo Chavez on Saturday appealed for unity within the armed forces and accused the media of trying to provoke a military uprising by circulating rumors of a forthcoming coup.

"United we will be invincible. Soldiers united! The people united! The nation united," said Chavez, speaking to naval officers in coastal Vargas state.

"I continue with this call, even for those who don't want to listen," added Chavez, a self-proclaimed "revolutionary" who was elected in 1998.

Chavez's call for unity within the armed forces came as rumors of officers planning a new rebellion persisted in this crisis-stricken South American nation of 24 million.

Dissident military officers briefly overthrew Chavez in April 12.

Loyalists joined by thousands of Chavez supporters returned the former paratrooper to power two days later.

On Tuesday, local television channels broadcast a video showing 10 masked men in combat fatigues who threatened to repress any violence perpetrated by armed "Chavistas."

Claiming to be active officers, the men said they represented a large group of lieutenant colonels, lieutenants, majors, and sergeants who are opposed to Chavez's rule.

Government spokespersons said there was no evidence the men were military officers. Opposition leaders, on the other hand, argued that the masked men were indeed soldiers.

Foreign Minister Roy Chaderton told a press conference on Friday that former military officers and government adversaries were planning another rebellion.

"There are small sectors—but that are well financed and very committed—who are trying to overthrow President Chavez," said Chaderton. "They are looking for new rebellious formulas to put an end to the democratic system."

On Saturday, the local El Nacional daily published contents of an unsigned manifesto allegedly drafted by a group of National Guardsmen. In the document, the presumed officers claim Chavez is violating "meritocracy" by only promoting the soldiers he trusts the most.

Chavez denies claims that he is ignoring merit in the military, and he accuses the local news media of attempting to provoke another military uprising. *AP*

Mob justice in Cambodia alarms UN

PHNOM PENH—When Johan Rahm witnessed a mob beat to death an accused motorbike thief in Phnom Penh as police turned their backs, it was an unforgettable 20 minutes of horror.

"It was excruciatingly slow," said Rahm, a Swedish expatriate, describing the scene that took place one day in January at midday in front of some 100 people. "One man would hit him and walk away and a minute later another man would run up and hit him with a stick."

Such scenes have been on the rise as people frustrated by the absence of a fair legal system take justice into their own hands—prompting Cambodian press to dub these fatal acts of vengeance as the "people's court."

And they've been attracting the attention of human rights groups, Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk, and now the United Nations, whose human rights agency is scheduled to issue a report on this brutal phenomenon on Monday.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights office in Cambodia says mobs beat to death eight suspected thieves in the first five months of this year.

Twelve people lost their lives to vigilante justice last year in Phnom Penh and provincial towns, while 20 were killed in 2000 and 19 in 1999, UN officials say.

Sihanouk deplored such killings more than 1-1/2 years ago, saying they were against Buddhist precepts and gave Cambodia a bad image.

"They take justice into their own hands because there's widespread mistrust of the court and the police—especially the court," said Thun Saray, who helped found the Cambodian Association of Human Rights 10 years ago. "Now I worry it's becoming a habit." *AP*

Somali warlord gets large arms shipment

MOGADISHU, Somalia—A Somali warlord opposed to the country's transitional government has received a large shipment of weapons, apparently from neighboring Ethiopia, witnesses said Saturday.

The witnesses, who all spoke on the condition of anonymity, said 10 large trucks arrived Friday at the northern Mogadishu headquarters of Musa Sude Yalahow, who is backed by Ethiopia.

The trucks departed from the southern Ethiopian town of Godey and traveled through the Hiran and Middle Shabelle regions of Somalia before arriving at Yalahow's compound in Mogadishu, witnesses said.

Yalahow belongs to an Ethiopian-backed alliance of faction leaders known as the Somali Reconciliation and Restoration Council, which opposes the transitional government. Ethiopia and Somalia fought a war in the late 1970s over Ethiopia's southeastern Ogaden region, home to thousands of ethnic Somalis. Ethiopia has since tried to influence Somali politics.

Ethiopian officials were not immediately available for comment Saturday.

The arms shipment included assault rifles, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft guns, which are usually mounted on the back of pickup trucks, witnesses said.

At least 35 people were killed last month in northern Mogadishu during two separate days of fighting between Yalahow's militia and forces loyal to the transitional government.

Yalahow's militia and government forces have maintained a heavy presence in the area since the fighting.

Somalia has had no effective central government since opposition leaders ousted dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991. They then fought with each other, turning the Horn of Africa nation of 7 million people into a patchwork of battling fiefdoms ruled by heavily armed militias. *AP*

Colombia terror campaign widens

BOGOTA, Colombia—Colombian authorities said Saturday that a deadly explosion in an upscale Bogota neighborhood was caused by a bomb—the latest sign of a broadening urban terror campaign.

The explosion Thursday inside La Churreria restaurant killed one woman and injured 10 people who were eating lunch, said Sgt. Alberto Cantillo, a spokesperson for the Bogota Metropolitan Police.

Authorities initially said the explosion was caused when a gas container accidentally ignited.

However, investigators from the attorney general's office later revealed the blast was the result of a 20-kg bomb placed inside a bathroom in the restaurant and detonated during lunch hour, said Carolina Sanchez, a spokeswoman for the attorney general's office.

Saturday's El Tiempo newspaper indicated that it could have been planted by rebels who were allegedly trying to extort the owners of the restaurant. *AP*

4 hurt in Indon blast

JAKARTA—A bomb exploded outside a Jakarta discotheque early Sunday, injuring four people, while police defused two other bombs also outside night spots.

No one was killed in the bombing in a northern section of the capital of Jakarta although two of the injuries were considered serious, said Jakarta police spokesperson Col. Anton Bachrul Alam.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the bombing at 1 a.m. local time Sunday (1800 GMT Saturday). Alam said no arrests had yet been made.

In the past, Muslim extremists opposed to Indonesia's tolerance for secularism have been responsible for attacks on night spots they consider un-Islamic. However, their previous attacks on discotheques have been with sticks, not bombs.

Other possible culprits are gangsters or rival drug dealers. Drugs and prostitution are rampant in Jakarta's night life.

Alam said the blast occurred outside the Exotic Discotheque in Jakarta's Chinatown area. *AP*

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Bishop apologizes over priest row

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya--Bishop Ramon Villena of the Diocese of Bayombong and Quirino apologized Sunday before the Catholic faithful here in a bid to unite divided parishioners of Bagabag town over a petition to relieve their parish priest.

"I would like to apologize for the hurt we have caused you. Forgive our shortcomings and give us the chance to renew ourselves," Villena said in a statement read by Fr. Vic Tiam.

The bishop addressed his message to the Catholic faithful in light of a petition by the Alliance of Concerned Citizens against Oppression, Repression of Rights and Dishonesty in the church (Accorrd) in Bagabag who sought the relief of Msgr. Vicente Emilio Tugadi.

Accorrd members, in their petition, asked Villena to transfer Tugadi for his alleged lack of fitness to manage a parish and for loss of confidence. They also accused Tugadi of arrogance, non-transparency, dictatorial style of management of the parish, ostentatious lifestyle and alleged "discriminatory" treatment of poor families in the parish.

Tugadi, in an interview with the INQUIRER last week, dismissed the allegations as mere fabrications.

"I never refused anybody (who requested me) to give Mass and I have all the documents to show that I did not do any illegal or immoral acts," he told reporters here.

"What is ridiculous in all these moves against me is that there are some people who anointed themselves to represent these people without asking their permission," Tugadi said.

Villena said after a careful study of the Accorrd petition, Tugadi's written reply to the accusations and the meeting of his board of consultants, "I have decided not to transfer Monsignor Tugadi from St. Jerome's parish."

"I did not see any serious violation of the laws of the church or any law of the country by Monsignor Tugadi. To my mind, he satisfactorily answered the accusations hurled at him," Villena said.

"I want him (Tugadi) to stay because I believe that he has done a lot and can still do a lot for Bagabag," he added.

Villena, however, said Tugadi admitted his limitations in his use of language that could have been interpreted by his parishioners as arrogance. Villena said Tugadi apologized for this during a dialogue on June 3.

"We have proven that we can meet as brothers and sisters and can freely speak out our minds and sentiments on issues. I am very satisfied with the process we undertook," Villena said. ***Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

One Country, One Flag, One Armed Forces!

There can only be one country, one flag and one Armed Forces of the Philippines. It is because of this principle on which our republic stands that the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) should not be given any opportunity by the Philippine government to regain entry into the camps and areas which the military, under my command, recovered and restored for the country and the people. We must always ensure that no portion of the country is dismembered, as the Constitution commands.

Too many of our soldiers have died and were injured in their fight to restore that which belongs to the republic, flag and country. To give up what they had suffered and died for is to dishonor them. We all want peace in this country, but not at the cost of ceding territories and control to the MILF secessionist rebels, which is what the GRP-MILF agreement signed in a foreign country, virtually grants to the MILF.

Past experience has shown very clearly that the MILF rebels take advantage of every ceasefire and temporary peace agreement with government.

It was through these ceasefire and peace agreements that the MILF fighters grew in strength and numbers, taking over areas and communities in Mindanao and establishing their military camps, complete with bunkers and tunnels which facilitate their movement, and where the smuggling of arms is effected with ease.

The MILF rebels have not given up on their goal to establish an independent Islamic state, despite the peace agreement forged in Malaysia recently, where government negotiators virtually ceded funds, as well as control of Philippine territories to this rebel group.

There is not one soldier and not one official, not even a President, who can guarantee the nation that the MILF rebels will not return to these recovered camps as fighters, rather than the peaceful settlers they claim to be. The negotiators themselves have admitted during congressional hearings that the reality on the ground is that the MILF rebels are still there, spread all over central Mindanao. They also admitted that it would be difficult for government to determine who would be allowed to return to these conflict affected areas.

Why then does the Arroyo regime allow the MILF rebels the opportunity to gain control of Philippine territories once more to establish their military camps, build a strong armed force, fly their flag, and even fund their secessionist war?

The MILF force had been defeated by our military under my command. Peace should have been negotiated by government bargaining from a position of strength. Yet all these efforts have been put to waste.

Today the MILF has again become a strong rebel force, and its flag will fly once more over Philippine territory, just as the Communist New People's Army has gained strength under Mrs. Arroyo's regime.

We must put a stop to this madness of dismembering the republic and allowing a rebel armed force to exist in our country. For there can only be one country, one flag and one Armed Forces of the Philippines.

I appeal to our Armed Forces: Let us not forget the sacrifices made by your brave and loyal comrades-in-arms. Let us not yield an inch of our hard-won territory to the secessionist rebels.

Let us unite behind one country, one flag and one Armed Forces whom I and all Filipinos are so proud of.

JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA

ADVT.

CARP deferment in industrial lands evicted 20,000 workers

DAVAO CITY--Some 20,000 banana farm workers in Mindanao have been forced out of their jobs because of the deferment of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in commercial and industrial lands since 1988, Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) in Mindanao said.

The farmers made the revelation during the Mindanao Caucus of Commercial Farms here on Friday.

The ARBs also bared that since the deferment started, land use conversion has become rampant and rightful ARBs had been excluded from land distribution.

They also assailed the implementation of the buffer zone policy, which they claimed has resulted to millions of pesos in production in lands that have undergone valuation by the Land Bank of the Philippines.

The ARBs said 14 years after the implementation of the CARP, farmers are still crying for a genuine land distribution program, while landlords kept their hold on vast tracks of land.

15th year

The government's land reform program would enter its 15th year of implementation on June 15.

"Despite the glowing accomplishment reports by the Department of Agrarian Reform, in reality, thousands of hectares of commercial farms remain undistributed," the farmers said in a statement.

Rodrigo Rebaja, chair of Dapco Original Farmworkers ARB Association (Dofarba), said the retrenchment of workers and rampant land conversion violated the agrarian law.

"DAR has erred in entertaining requests for conversion. It should not have been given approval in the first place," Rebaja said.

Aside from retrenchment and land conversion issues, the ARBs said the slow and unjust land valuation, fraudulent implementation of the production profit sharing (PPS) arrangement; and onerous contracts imposed by plantation owners on ARB cooperatives were some of the issues that have hounded them for years.

They also cited the alleged collusion between corrupt DAR officials and landowners, inadequate support services such as road, implementation of unfair environmental management systems under the guise of compliance to ISO standards and non-coverage of "CARP-able" government lands transformed into commercial farms such as the Davao Penal Colony.

Dream

Harold Berayo of the Davao Fruits ARBs Association said the government's land reform program would be 15 years old, but farmers still dream of owning their land.

"The law has too many loopholes. There are many aspects of it that needs a thorough review," Berayo said.

Aside from discussing issues that have affected them over the years, the ARBs also called on the government to resolve all pending cases of inclusion-exclusion, land conversion, retention and other cases filed before the DAR Central Office.

The farmers also wanted the Presidential Agrarian Reform Commission (PARC) to review Administrative Order No. 6 outlining the Rules of Procedure for Agrarian Law Implementation Cases and amend section 9 of the order, which landowners reportedly use to delay execution of DAR decisions.

They also asked for the mandatory review of all contracts covering agribusiness venture arrangements and for an investigation on the compliance of members of the Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association on the distribution of Production and Profit Sharing.

"We call on President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has been installed to power by people's movement and who considers herself the daughter of agrarian reform, to fulfill her covenant with the people by ensuring social justice through agrarian reform," the farmers' statement further said. ***Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Ex-American serviceman facing rape charges allowed to be treated

BACOLOD CITY—The Regional Trial Court in Kabankalan City has allowed a retired American serviceman, who is facing multiple rape charges, to undergo medical treatment in a clinic in this city.

But prosecution lawyers requested an "air tight security" for Victor Pearson, 54, when the latter sought medical care at the clinic of Dr. Antonio Gauzon.

RTC Judge Henry Arles in Kabankalan on Friday granted Pearson's motion to undergo treatment at Gauzon's clinic as advised by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Office in Metro Manila.

Arles denied a motion earlier filed by Pearson for him to undergo medical treatment in Metro Manila.

Pearson, a discharged member of the US Marines, needs treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, which was caused by the American's experiences during the Vietnam War.

He was also suffering from a defect on his ulnar nerve causing paralysis on his fingers.

Pearson is now detained at the Negros Occidental Provincial Jail in Bacolod City pending trial of the multiple rape charges against him by five girls between August last year until February this year.

Thirty-seven counts of rape filed against Pearson are now on trial at the sala of Judge Arles in Kabankalan City, about 97 kilometers south of this city.

These are on top of the 40 counts of rape charges still pending for evaluation before the Negros Occidental Provincial Prosecutor's Office.

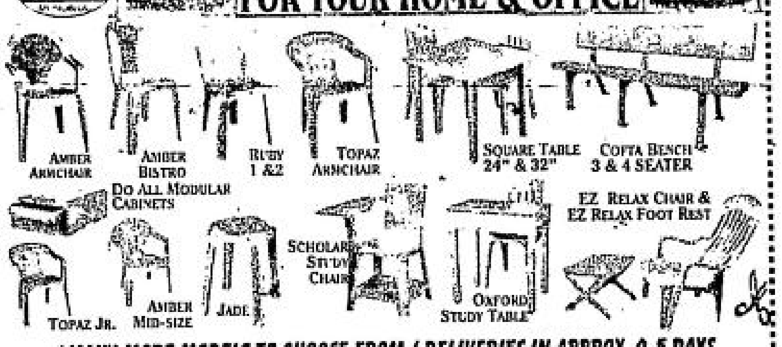
The complainants used to be housemaids of the American in the house he maintained in Ilog town, Negros Occidental.

Rowena Guanzon, one of the volunteer legal counsels for the victims, asked Provincial Jail Warden Marcos Ybañez to detail adequate guards to Pearson, even inside the clinic of Gauzon.

The American should be guarded tightly, she said as she expected Arles to render a decision on two counts of rape filed by a 15-year-old victim within 30 days.

Pearson was cross-examined by Guanzon during the resumption of the hearing on Friday before the sala of Arles.

He vehemently denied raping the 15-year-old on Oct. 28 and on Dec. 4, 2000, at his residential compound in Barangay Andolawan, Ilog town, about 106 southwest of this city. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***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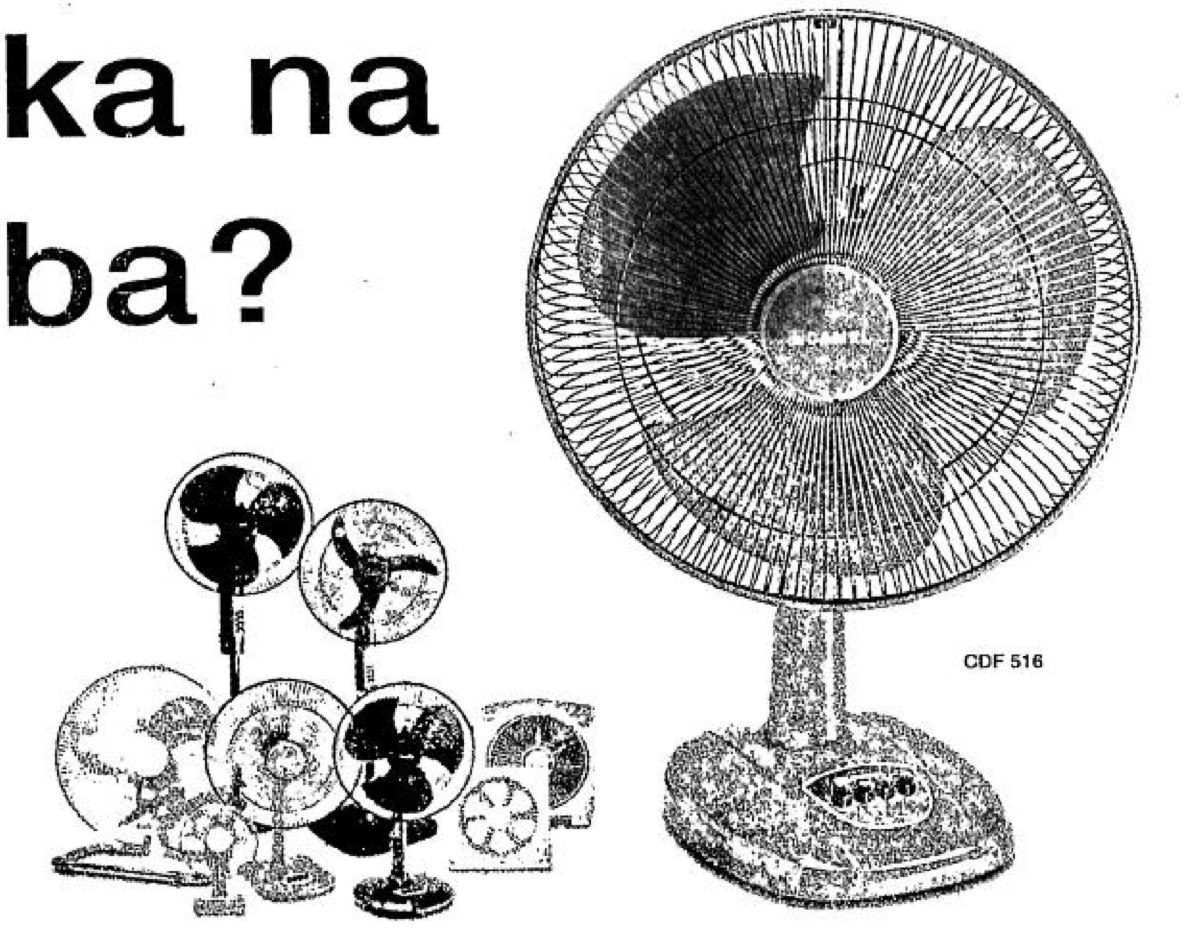

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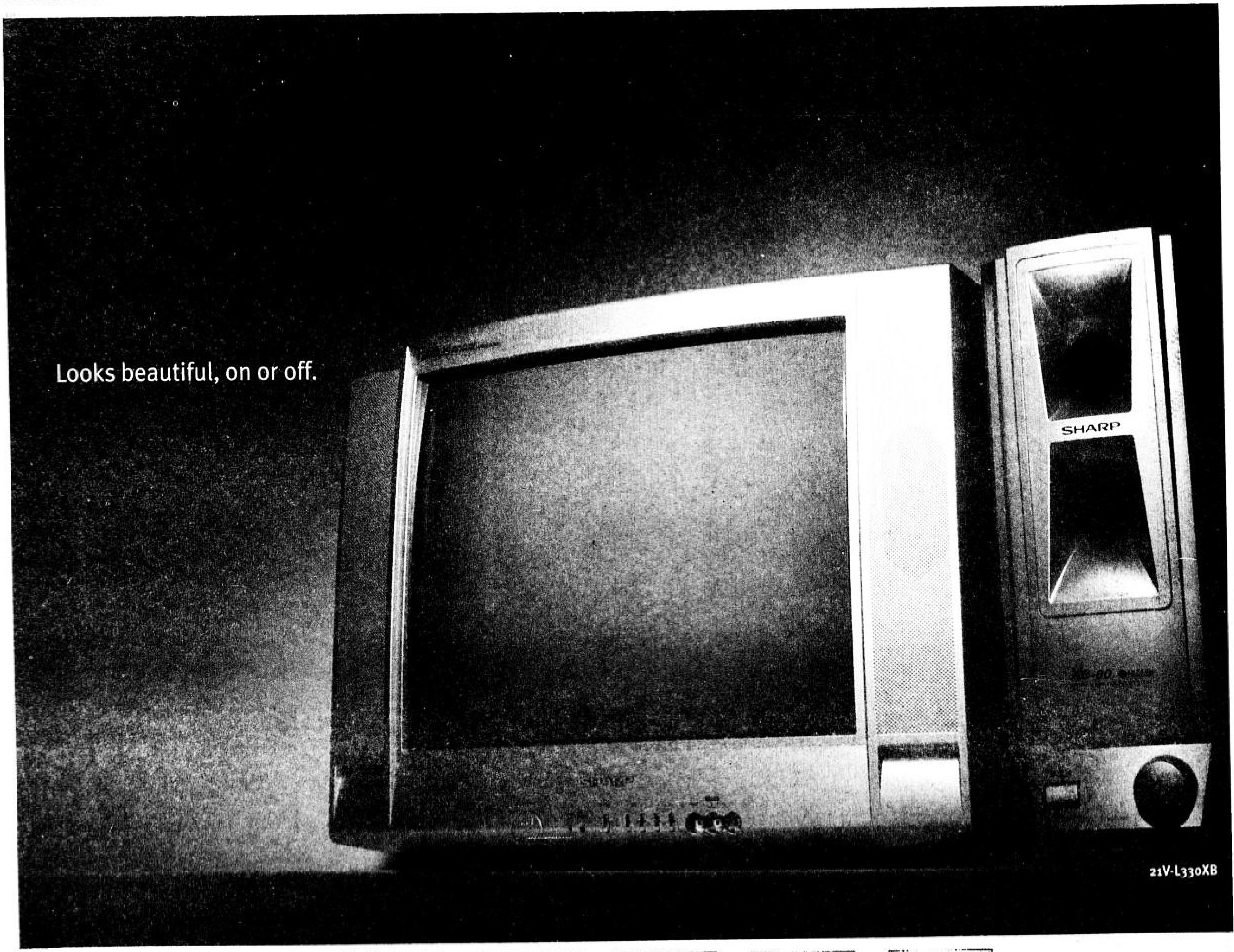
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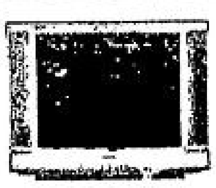
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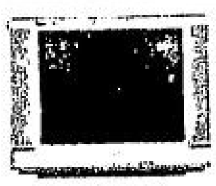
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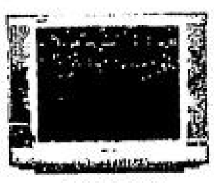
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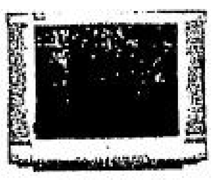
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More books for schools, Roco vows

NAGA CITY—Education Secretary Raul S. Roco said more textbooks will be distributed to all public schools this school year that will raise the student-textbook ratio from 1:4 to 1:5 ratio in all grade levels.

It is the first time in the history of public school education that a public school student will be provided with an average of five textbooks, he said.

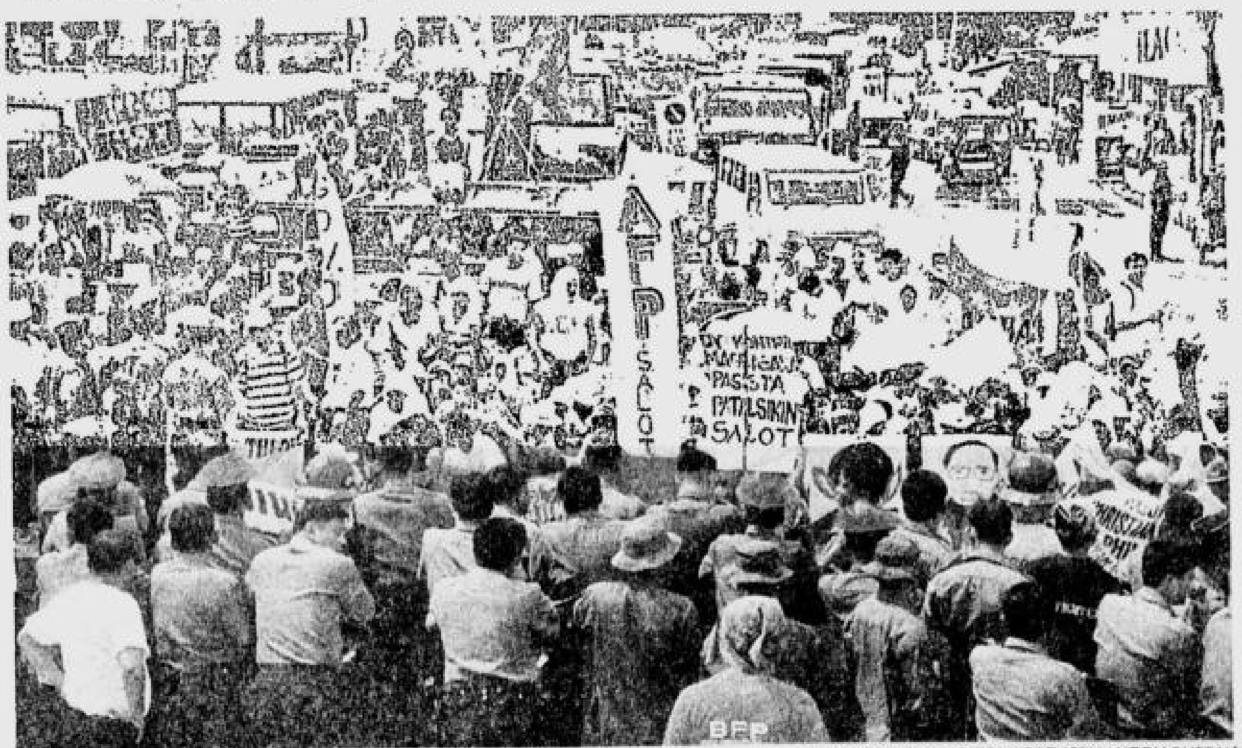
He said the improvement in the student-textbook ratio was made possible after the Department of Education bought quality textbooks at cheaper prices, or P21 each compared with P60 per textbook purchased earlier.

He said the cheaper prices of quality textbooks were obtained through open public biddings of needed textbooks, which meant that during public biddings all applications were opened publicly and in front of television cameras.

He said the adoption of open public bidding for the acquisition of textbooks this school year allocated for grades one to four has enabled the DepEd to optimize the budget for textbooks all the way to grade six.

He said the new curriculum in high school math concentrates on algebra for first and second years and geometry for third and fourth years.

He said the DepEd will provide one math textbook "to every single student" and printed lesson plans for algebra and geometry will be provided to teachers in high schools. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



VILLAMOR VISAYA JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

'OUST DY' RALLY

Protesters jam the highway in Baligatan, Ilagan, Isabela on Friday to seek the ouster of Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr.

Palawan hopeful of share from Malampaya

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes said on Thursday that the province is close to receiving its share from the windfall brought about by the operation of the Kamago-Malampaya natural gas project.

Reyes said both the provincial government and the national government have initially endorsed the draft proposal of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the 20 percent financial assistance package for Palawan offered by the latter from the proceeds of the project.

Reyes had passed draft for review by the provincial council. The council headed by Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon had started a series of public hearings about the MOA.

In a public hearing here last week by the joint Committees of the Whole, Energy, Appropriations, Rules and Laws and Local Government of the provincial council, the residents said they were impatient with the undue delay of the benefits from the project.

But others claimed that some terms stipulated in the MOA are unconstitutional and would not be beneficial to the province.

Similar hearings will be held in Narra for the second district and Roxas for the first district on June 11 and 13.

A similar MOA was not passed last April because of strong opposition raised in a public consultation thus prompting the national government to draft a new one.

President Macapagal-Arroyo last year assured the people of Palawan that they would receive their rightful share in the natural gas project. ***Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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Physical therapist gets death for murder

URDANETA CITY—A judge here sentenced a physical therapist to suffer the death penalty for killing a member of a prominent family in Pangasinan in 2000.

Judge Joven Costales of the regional trial court here ordered Robert Brodett, 41, to die by lethal injection for what the court described as the "gruesome murder" of Dr. April Duque, a dermatologist.

Duque is a first cousin of the Duque clan who owns the Lyceum Northwestern and a private hospital, both in Dagupan City.

In his 90-page decision on Thursday, Costales convicted Brodett of Barangay Nancayasan here on the basis of the testimony of Brodett's 5-year-old son Giobert who witnessed the crime.

It was the 19th death conviction issued by Costales, who is called Pangasinan's "hanging judge."

"(Brodett) killed his victim by hammering her head and stabbing her on the neck. To conceal his crime, he burned her (Duque's) body," Costales said.

"Giobert's testimony and other circumstantial evidence pointed to Brodett as the author of the brutal and fiendish crime," he added.

Costales ordered Brodett to pay P1.05 million in damages to Duque's family.

The court, however, acquitted two other suspects—Reynaldo de Guzman, a mechanic, and Ronald Dulay, Duque's acquaintance—for insufficiency of evidence.

Court records showed that Brodett and Duque had been living together in a townhouse here. But on Dec. 29, 2000, Brodett hit Duque on the head and stabbed her.

Costales' decision and court records, however, were not clear on what prompted Brodett to attack Duque.

Brodett then loaded Duque's body in a car and dumped it on a spillway in Alcala town, 30 km from this city. Before leaving Alcala, Brodett burned Duque's body.

Policemen arrived in the area following a tip from a passenger of a bus that passed the area. The body was still in flames when policemen reached the spillway.

Duque was buried in Alcala when no one claimed her body but it was later exhumed on the orders of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Duque was identified by her mother, Carmelita, through a ring and a wristwatch she had given her.

In Dagupan City, the family of a Chinese-Filipino businesswoman who was stabbed and killed on June 3 has offered P50,000 reward to anyone who can offer information leading to the arrest of her killers.

Supt. Noli Taliño, Dagupan City police chief, said Christine Ngo, 39, was stabbed 13 times by two men who broke into her house in Trinidad Subdivision.

Ngo's two maids said they saw the suspects poking their guns at Ngo. The suspects, however, stabbed Ngo with a kitchen knife when she tried to fight them.

Taliño said the motive for the break-in could be robbery. ***Peter La. Julian with a report from Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon particularly the Western section will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 20° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 25°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 26°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/10/02

ROUNDUP

DOLE alert on recruiters

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Department of Labor and Employment here has urged residents to be vigilant to the proliferation of illegal recruiters. Alice Montilla, DOLE provincial officer, issued the warning following the arrest of suspected illegal recruiter Susan Uyog in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat on Tuesday. "Job applicants should first check with DOLE offices whether or not an agency has valid licenses and permits," Montilla said. Licensed recruiters hiring workers without coordination from the labor department, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and public employment service offices manned by the local governments would be considered illegal, she said. At the same time, Montilla bared that some training centers for aspiring overseas workers were doubling as centers for illegal recruitment. She said some of these have already been charged. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

New presidential assistant

PAGADIAN CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has named former Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Romeo Vera Cruz as presidential assistant for Western Mindanao. The president signed Vera Cruz's appointment on May 29 according to a Malacañang communication, a copy of which was furnished the INQUIRER. Vera Cruz, who now holds a post equivalent to that of an undersecretary, was tasked to oversee government projects in the region. *Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Nabbed for extortion

DAVAO CITY—Police in Davao del Sur arrested a father and his son after they were caught receiving extortion money from a businesswoman in Bansalan town. Chief Insp. Federico Roy, Bansalan police chief said an entrapment operation was launched against Felixberto Galvez, 41 and son, after Alicia Deocano complained that she was being forced to give P20,000. Aside from the bait money, authorities also seized a .38 caliber revolver, a flashlight and a baton from the elder Galvez. Charges have been filed against the suspects, who are detained at the Bansalan town jail. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Wanted man arrested

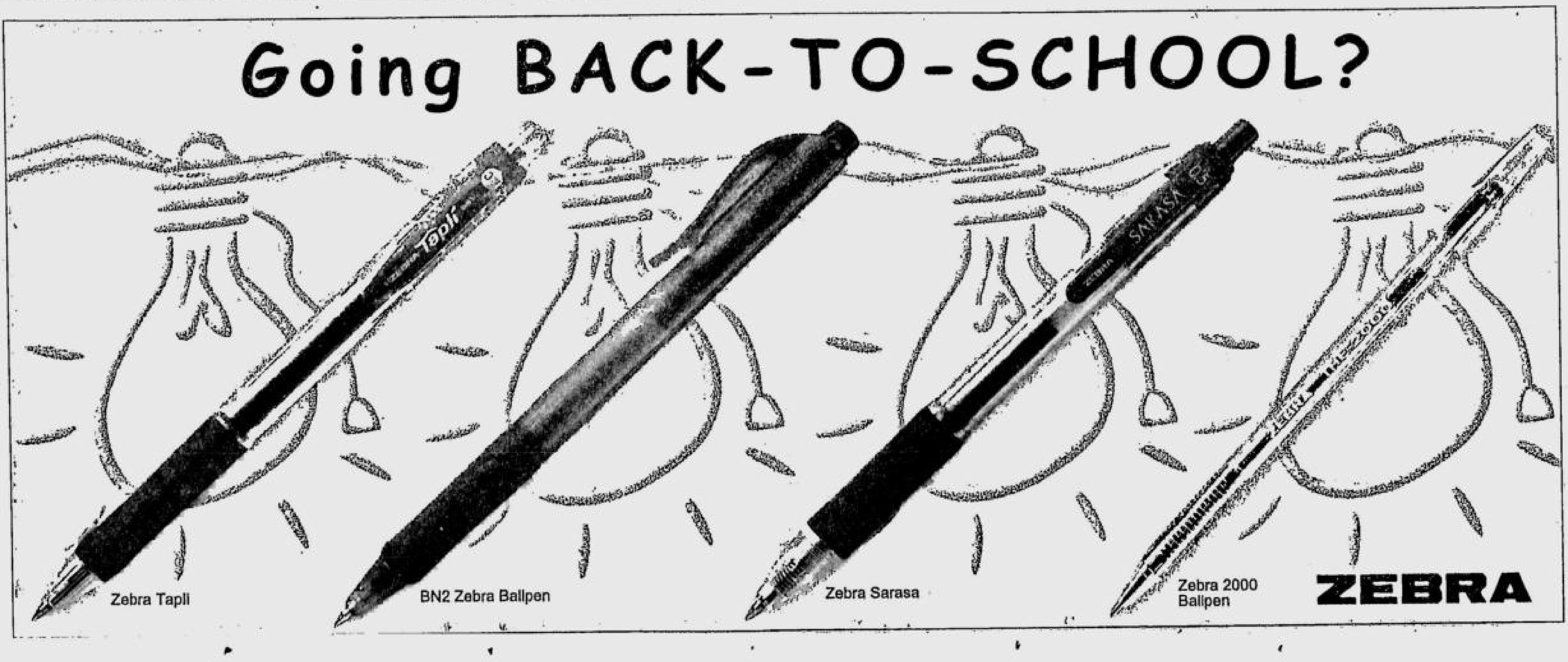
CAMP GENERAL ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Police arrested the fifth most wanted criminal in the province on Monday. Arrested was Benjamin del Prado, 37, a native of Calauag, Quezon, and a resident of Bocaue. Police said Del Prado heads the Prado Gang that was behind the string of robbery and holdup activities in Bulacan. Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuña, Bulacan police director, said Del Prado's arrest came after some members of his gang were arrested and bared his whereabouts to policemen. Acuña said Del Prado's group was responsible for the P1.7-million payroll robbery of a bag factory in Pulilan and the robbery of the Rural Bank of Pandi in Sta. Maria town. Recovered from Del Prado were a caliber .357 revolver, bullets and four grenades.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

No deals reached

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Lakas-NUCD in Pampanga has not reached a so-called Pampanga arrangement, especially on its official bet for governor, Gov. Manuel Lapid and Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez said in separate interviews. The two were reacting to an earlier INQUIRER report that Lakas has chosen Pampanga Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc from the Nationalist People's Coalition as its gubernatorial candidate in 2004. Lapid, the party's provincial chair, said he was endorsing his son Mark, a former provincial board member representing the youth sector, as the party's official candidate. Rodriguez said "there is no such thing as a Pampanga arrangement yet," adding that contrary to the report, he was not running under the NPC. "There's not even a brewing arrangement," he said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk



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2 suspected NPA rebels nabbed in Quezon

PAGBILAO, Quezon—Government soldiers arrested two suspected New People's Army rebels on Friday, a day after a one-hour gunbattle took place in the boundary of Mauban and Atimonan, Quezon.

A report identified the two as brothers Jose, 42, and Aniceto, 38, both surnamed Gloria and residents of the same barangay where the clash took place.

The two reportedly took part in the clash that killed two government soldiers and a suspected rebel.

Recovered from the two were one Armalite rifle, two magnum rifles with six live ammunitions, medical kits and asssorted ammunitions.

Slain

Police identified the rebel as Ryan Advincula, 21, single and resident of Barangay Bagumbungan in the hinterland tri-boundary of Pagbilao, Mauban and Atimoman, where the encounter took place.

His father has claimed his body in the police headquarters here on Friday.

The two slain Army soldiers were identified as Pvts. Alejandro de los Santos and Benjamin Macademia, both of the Army's 76th Infantry Battalion.

On Thursday, composite elements from the 417th police provincial mobile group and army troops under Col. George Segovia were on patrol when they chanced upon at least 40 rebels in the area.

Firefight

A heavy firefight ensued between the two groups. After an hour, the rebels withdrew in three different directions.

The Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar in Lucena City immediately dispatched two Huey helicopters in the area to track down the NPA.

Several checkpoints were also established in the road networks surrounding the area.

All hospitals and clinics in neighboring towns were also searched for wounded rebels. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Aetas go hi-tech with satellite phones

ANGELES CITY—Aeta guides and porters in Mt. Pinatubo are going "hi-tech," thanks to President Macapagal-Arroyo who, amid strong rains on Wednesday, conquered the 1,400-foot high volcano.

Next week, the President is giving the Aetas two Ericsson R-190 satellite phones, according to Ronaldo Tiotuico, Department of Tourism director in Central Luzon.

The gifts came as Ms Macapagal realized first hand that on the crater, guides, porters and trekkers to the volcano have no way of being monitored or of communicating their conditions while exploring Pinatubo.

The President's entourage on Wednesday was carrying a satellite phone that enabled her to report her successful ascent to DOT officials.

At 11:30 a.m., immediately upon reaching the crater, Ms Macapagal called up Tiotuico.

"It's a nice feeling to be here on top of the volcano," Tiotuico quoted the President as telling him.

Still speaking through the satellite phone, Ms Macapagal urged Tiotuico to further promote the Mt. Pinatubo ecotourism project in the area so it could provide livelihood to more Aetas.

Then, Ms Macapagal told Tiotuico of her plan to donate the phone, which the Smart Communications Inc. gave her for the climb.

Ms Macapagal was the first Philippine President to reach the crater. She was the 6,659th tourist to conquer the volcano.

Her husband, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, was the 6,660th visitor, the visitors' logbook in Barangay Sta. Juliana in Capas, Tarlac—still the best and easiest route to the volcano—showed.

Aside from the First Gentleman and Gordon, Ms Macapagal was accompanied by Capas Mayor Rey Catacutan, Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, and local and regional officials of Central Luzon.

MACAPAGAL

Tiotuico said the President promised to buy another phone, which she would also donate to the Aetas.

Ms Macapagal's conquest of Mt. Pinatubo completes her own version of a triathlon—shoot the rapids, dive undersea and scale a mountain—this to bring attention to Philippine tourism.

Her next stop, she said, is Siargao, the country's surfing mecca in Surigao del Norte.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon awarded Ms Macapagal a "Certificate of Conquest" when she reached the crater. She in turn instructed Gordon to further promote Mt. Pinatubo as a major tourism destination and develop and implement necessary support facilities, including the P25-million Sta. Juliana ecotourism road.

Tiotuico plans to assign the first satellite phone unit to the Sta. Juliana Tourism Center while the second will be used by Aeta guides and porters whenever they assist climbers.

According to Tiotuico, the Aetas consider the President's gift "very necessary."

No signals

"When they're up there, we lose track of them. Any trek, whether under sunny or rainy conditions, is always accompanied by danger. With the phones, we have a way of determining their safety," he said.

At the Tarlac side of the crater, one of the highest peaks in the Zambales mountain range, transmission signals for mobile phones are absent. Even short wave radios are useless up there.

The Aetas who built a canal on the Maraunot notch to ease the dangerous level of water last year managed to only transmit messages through a radio hooked to a communication system in Botolan, Zambales.

The phones, which would also help ensure the safety of visitors, would boost the ecotourism project that the Aetas began in 1994 and which the DOT systematized the following year.

Tiotuico said some 100 Aetas earn a living from working as guides and porters. Income is shared to feed the clan and to revive what were once ash-laden swidden farms.

Ramon Dumulot, the President's guide, admired Ms Macapagal's stamina for hiking.

"She walked fast. She seemed tireless," Dumulot told the INQUIRER, speaking through a cellular phone he operated from the Philippine Air Force's watchtower in Sta. Juliana.

The President made four brief stops to give her husband time to rest, Dumulot said.

He is himself excited about the tribe having satellite phones.

"*Abe, mudernu na ke rin* (My friend, we're going modern too)!" he said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Jo Clemente, Contributor***

Ilocandia loses P13M to drought; 9,195 hectares hit

VIGAN CITY—Four months before the El Niño phenomenon is expected to hit the Philippines, the Ilocos region has already lost at least P13 million due to the drought that affected the country early this year.

A report of the regional Department of Agriculture covering the provinces of Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte showed that the drought had affected 9,195 hectares of farmlands in the region.

Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani, chair of the regional development council, asked Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor to provide P73.12 million to the RDC to finance programs that will cushion the effect of the El Niño and to help farmers recover from the losses they incurred from the drought.

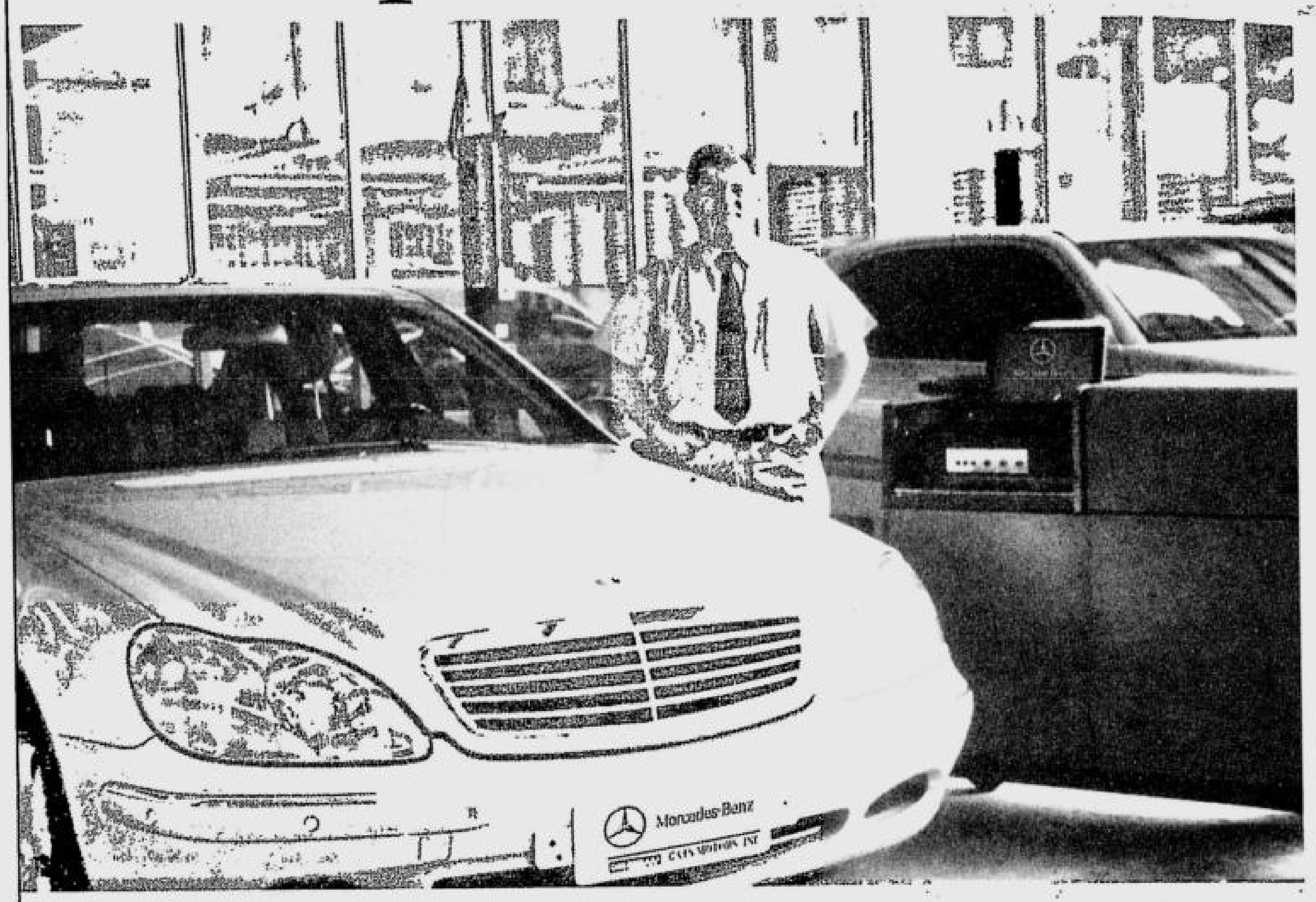
Agbayani said Pangasinan was worst hit, as the drought destroyed 5,034 hectares of lands planted with palay.

In Ilocos Norte, the drought destroyed 45 hectares planted with high value crops like eggplants, tomatoes, onions, mangoes and pepper.

Despite the monsoon rains that watered the farms in the past weeks, DA officials warned farmers that the worst has yet to come.

Reinerio Belarmino Jr., DA assistant regional director, said the DA has been installing 520 shallow tube wells in 1,300 hectares of farmlands to help farmers prepare for El Niño.

The agency, he said, is also rehabilitating five communal irrigation systems and 22 diversion dams. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***



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Barangay, SK candidacies cause shortage of docu stamps

By Joey A. Gabieta
and Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Bureau of Internal Revenue in Eastern Visayas (BIR-8) has run out of documentary stamps because of the number of candidates running for various positions in the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections on July 15.

The BIR in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental also suspended last Tuesday the issuance of Tax Identification Numbers (TIN) to the candidates for fear that the agency would run out of supply in no time.

Chat Homeres, BIR-8 administrator, said they had asked for additional supply of documentary stamps because their supply of 300,000 pieces for the whole Eastern Visayas had been depleted.

This supply normally lasts for more than two months, he added.

"We already sent our custodian to make a requisition to our central office. We hope to get 400,000 to 500,000 pieces of documentary stamps," she said.

But Homeres expressed doubts that their request would be approved. The BIR central office would have to get these documentary stamps from the Bangko ng Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Request

Had the BIR central office given them the 600,000 pieces that they had requested, the shortage would have been avoided, she pointed out.

The shortage of documentary stamps was the first time it happened in the region.

City elections officer Rochie Cerro said candidates for the barangay and SK elections are required to paste documentary stamps to their certificates of candidacy (CoCs).

"I have told them to secure first documentary stamps before they (candidates) file their certificates of candidacy," he said.

They are to submit three copies of CoCs, with a documentary stamp each. Failure to do so would invalidate the CoCs.

"The shortage of documentary stamps was also observed in other (towns) like Palo and Tanauan (both in Leyte)," he said.

The same shortage was also noted in the BIR offices in Catarman town, Northern Samar and Maasin City, Southern Leyte.

As of Friday, the Comelec office in Tacloban has received 1,501 CoCs for the barangay and SK elections. These candidates would slug it out for the 2,208 positions covering the city's 138 barangays.

Increase

The number of candidates was expected to increase by today, the deadline of filing of CoCs.

In Negros Oriental, the BIR office in Dumaguete City suspended on June 4 the issuance of the TIN to the candidates to prevent a shortage.

Jose Senador, BIR-Dumaguete revenue officer III, said their office only has 1,000 pre-generated TIN cards from the BIR central Office.

But he clarified that the TIN cards would still be issued to people with regular transactions with the BIR.

The barangay candidates started trooping to the BIR in Dumaguete after noting a blank space for the TIN was found in the Certificate of Candidacy.

Senador called the Comelec Negros Oriental office to ask if a TIN was really a prerequisite to the filing of candidacy for the barangay elections.

"Not necessary," said Election Supervisor Rogelio Benjamin of Negros Oriental. "If they don't have a TIN, they should state so in their Certificate of Candidacy."

Benjamin said there are only a few requirements for one to become a candidate and a TIN is not one of them.

Among the requirements are: the candidate must be a natural born Filipino Citizen of legal age; ability to read and write; a registered voter in the place he or she is running and has not been disqualified by law to run for public office.

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Former mayor in homicide case released

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

GUIMBAL, Iloilo—Former San Joaquin Mayor Sebastian Serag and five other accused in the killing of his political rival last year were released from jail on bail after the court downgraded the charges against them to homicide and frustrated homicide.

Serag together with Lino Napao, Jose Oliver Segumalian, Edgar Sta. Cruz and Roque Sanmillan left the Iloilo Rehabilitation Center (IRC) on Friday after posting bail of P40,000 and P12,000 each for homicide and frustrated homicide, respectively.

Accused Thomix Segumalian was also released from the jail in Guimbal town on bail. Two other co-accused—Rodolfo Talanquines and Juan Napao—surrendered on Friday to post bail.

Still at large were accused Nemesio Panugot, Marcelino Napao, Noel Napao and Eleazar Sañol.

Serag and his co-accused were allowed to post bail after the Regional Trial Court on Thursday admitted the motion of the prosecution to amend the complaint on the killing of Serag's political opponent, Jesus Sibya and the wounding of his driver, Norberto Salamat III.

The amended complaint no longer included San Joaquin Vice Mayor Marilyn Silfavan and three De la Cruz brothers, Teodorico, Vicente and Abraham who were earlier tagged as accessory and accomplices.

Not guilty

The accused pleaded not guilty before RTC Judge Danilo Galvez of Branch 67 during their arraignment that later followed.

Among those inside the jampacked courtroom was San Joaquin Mayor Ma. Daisy Sibya. Mayor Sibya replaced her husband in the mayoral race and won against Serag.

Serag and his co-accused were accused of killing Sibya in front of his house in San Joaquin, three days before the May 14 elections last year. Salamat was wounded in the attack.

Serag and his co-accused were initially charged with murder and frustrated murder. Serag's lawyer filed a petition for review before the Department of Justice last August.

On May 20, Justice Secretary Hernani Perez ordered the Iloilo Prosecutor's Office to downgrade charges to homicide and frustrated homicide, citing lack of evidence to establish probable cause for murder and frustrated murder.

Jurisdiction

With the downgrading of the charge of attempted murder to attempted homicide, the Municipal Trial Court of San Joaquin acquired jurisdiction over the case.

On Thursday's hearing, lawyers from both camps spent more than an hour, arguing whether or not to admit the amended information.

Sibya's lawyers, Pablo Tolentino and Gregorio Rubias, asked the court to grant them five days to object to the amended information but to no avail.

Assistant Prosecutor Globert Justalero also asked the court, "on the intent of justice," to postpone the arraignment and give Sibya's lawyers until June 10 to comment on the amended information.

He said the private prosecutors filed a motion for reconsideration before the DOJ on June 4.

Still, Judge Galvez admitted the amended information and proceeded with the arraignment.

But Mayor Sibya was not about to give up. "We will exhaust all legal remedies available. I hope I can still get justice here," she said.

Tolentino said they would file a petition for certiorari before the Supreme Court.

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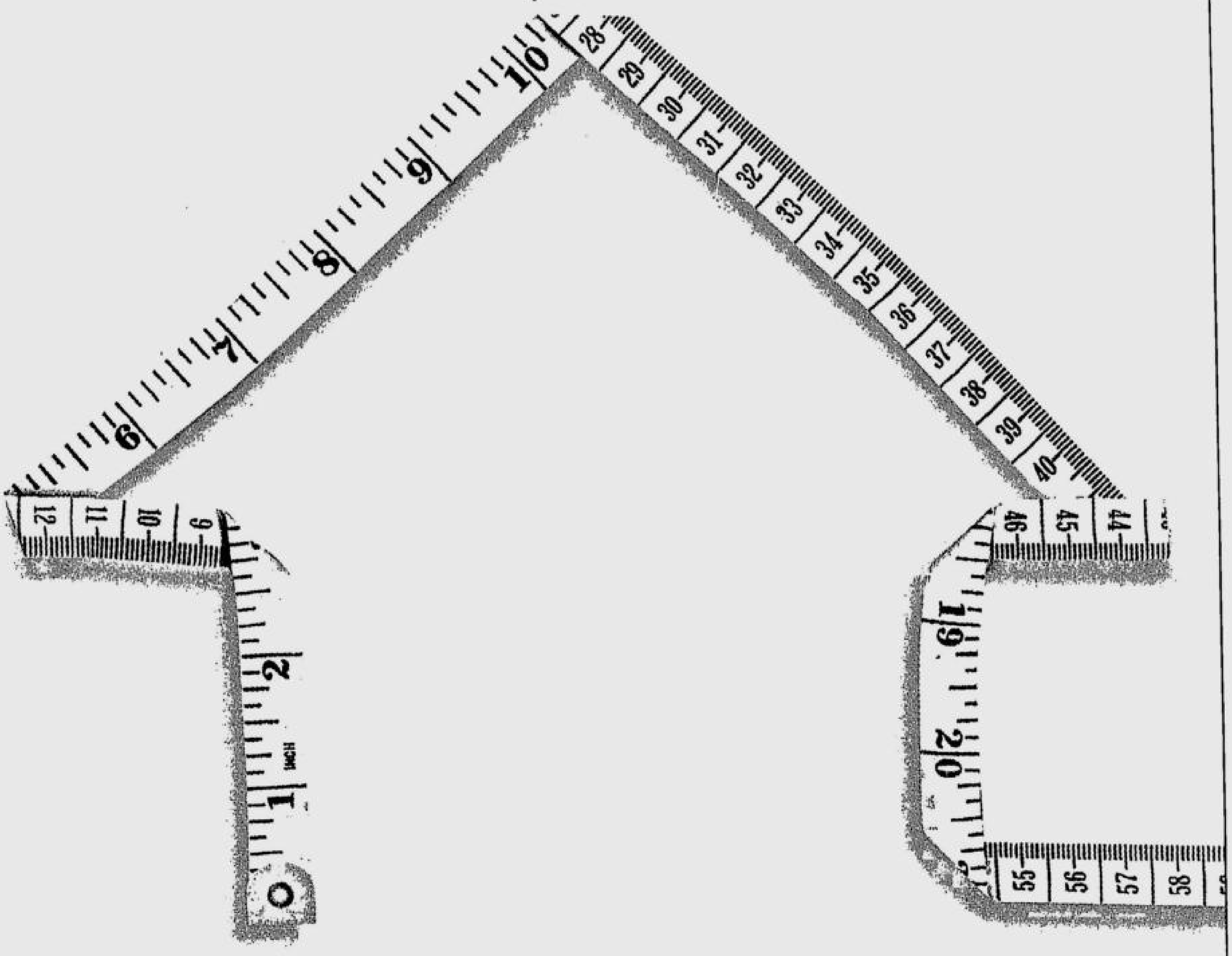

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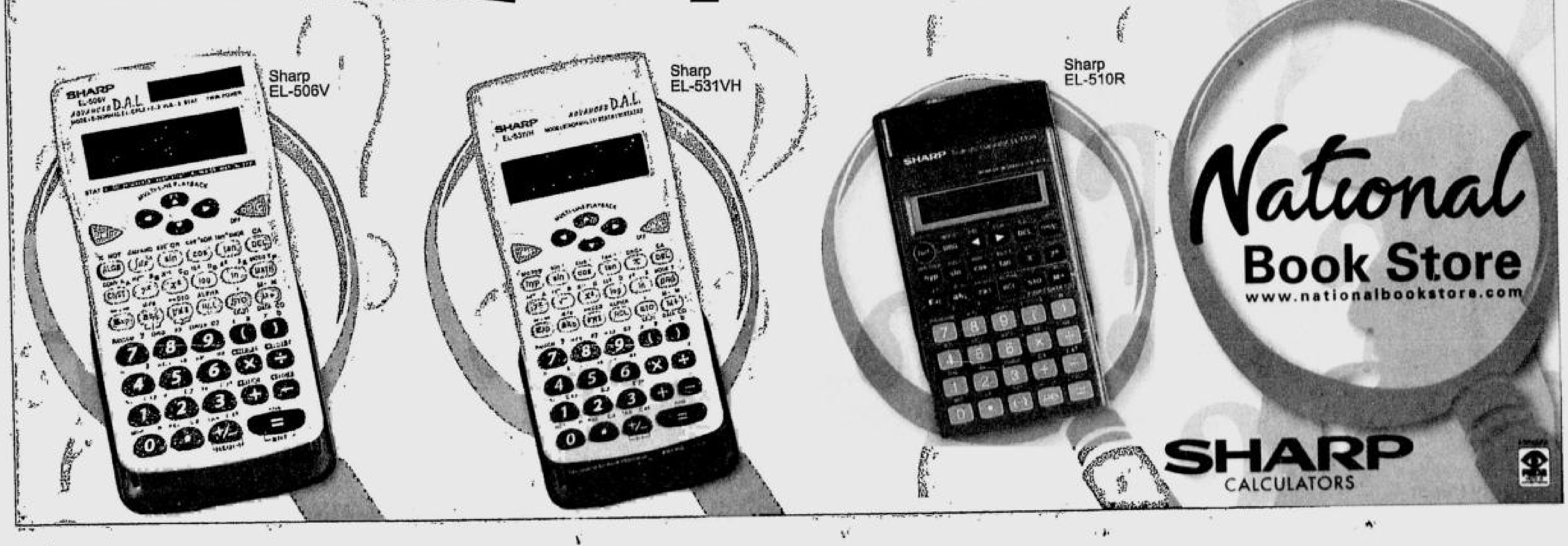

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SHARP CALCULATORS

Ediborah a hero–Gracia

From page A1

others were freed or murdered, including another American, Guillermo Sobero, of California.

During their meeting facilitated by the US Embassy at an undisclosed place, Gracia Burnham related to Yap's children—Jonathan, 24; Anthony, 20; Mary Ann, 16; and Lawrence William, 6—their life in the jungles, according to Jenista.

"She knew by name each of the children and the things their mother had told her about them," he said. "Both sides were moved. It was very, very gracious of Mrs. Burnham."

Before seeing Burnham, Yap's three sons met the President in Malacañang at 2:30 p.m. yesterday. They were accompanied by their grandmother Fatima and uncle David Pamaran.

Their sister did not join them because she didn't want to be seen by journalists.

"I'm sorry," the President said as she embraced Fatima. She then shook the hands of the boys, saying condolence to each of them.

Lawrence, who is fondly called "Bon-Bon," later emerged smiling from the Office of the President with a box of cake.

Sisterly love

Jenista said Burnham had told Yap's children that "she loved Ediborah as a sister." She related their mother's wish "for them to continue their schooling," he added.

In a brief interview with Palace reporters, the President said Lawrence would get a scholarship from the government while Mary Ann would continue to be a scholar under the Office of the President.

Jonathan is working in an uncle's fishing business, while Anthony will enlist in the military, she said.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman said Anthony had long expressed his desire to become a soldier. "He wants to help achieve peace in Basilan," she said.

"After the burial, the family will meet with Dinky on how the government can give them sustainable help or livelihood," the President said.

Ms Macapagal said she agreed with the Philippine Nurses Association statement that Yap died in the line of duty. According to previous accounts, the nurse once had the chance to escape but chose to follow her calling by continuing to minister to the Burnhams.

"Ediborah died in the line of duty. She was taken hostage when she was doing her duty as a nurse, and even in captivity, she was doing her duty as a nurse," Ms Macapagal said.

"That was why Gracia wants to meet her children before she goes home to the US. There are many things she wants to tell them," she said.

Departure

Both the President and Soliman were mum on when Burnham would leave the country. But according to US spokesperson Jenista, Burnham was scheduled to issue a departure statement containing a message to the Filipino people at 6:30 a.m. today.

Ms Macapagal declined to answer how Martin Burnham died, saying "those things are classified."

When asked about Gracia's reaction to her husband's death, the President said she was "very, very gracious."

"I was telling her, 'You know, Gracia, what a blessing you are in the work that you do because you can see things through the eyes of God,'" Ms Macapagal said.

"She kept on saying that you (the President) can be proud of your soldiers."

On Sunday, Yap's body was returned to a hero's welcome in her hometown in Lamitan, Basilan, according to an Agence France Presse report.

Hundreds of residents welcomed the Philippine Navy patrol craft that brought Yap's remains here, two days after the rescue attempt that ended a 376-day hostage crisis by the Abu Sayyaf.

Women and children were seen crying as dozens of heavily armed militiamen stood guard, an AFP photographer said.

A banner at the port said, "Ediborah, you will always be remembered."

Yap's body was taken to the town's parish church for a special Mass, which was attended by both Christians and Muslims in the religiously mixed town.

The church was nearly devastated when the bandits raided it and an adjacent hospital compound on June 2 last year.

Parish priest Cirilo Nacorda, himself an Abu Sayyaf kidnap victim in the past, urged the public to pray for Yap and the Burnhams in an emotional and solemn service punctuated by the loud sobs of Yap's relatives and friends.

'Brave people'

"I would say that Ediborah and the Burnhams are brave people, truly brave because they have survived for more than a year," until Friday's rescue attempt, Nacorda said.

Yap "could not afford to be given freedom and leave the others behind," he said. "She is a brave woman and she sacrificed a lot."

Yap's children said that they did not blame the government for her tragic death.

"We can't blame anyone. They didn't mean it," said Jonathan during an earlier funeral service in Zamboanga City as his youngest brother, Bon-bon, wept nearby.

He said he heard of his mother's death from a television report in Zamboanga City.

He said he was not angry at the soldiers. "I am angry at the Abu Sayyaf. They can't stop their kidnappings."

"We have accepted everything. Let the soul of Ediborah rest in peace. We have nothing to say about who is to blame," said her brother David.

But Yap's brother David said on Friday night that "we should not have suffered for over a year just to see Ediborah killed."

He said government soldiers should have wiped out the bandits who were trapped inside the Lamitan hospital even if civilians inside the facility could get killed.

Pamaran, who is the secretary of the municipal council, said the death of his sister left many questions unanswered even as he wondered how the Dos Palmas hostages were brought to their town and how the Abu Sayyaf were able to bring the Burnhams and his sister to Sirawai.

He said his family was planning a big reunion during the Lamitan fiesta on June 29, the feast of St. Peter, had Ediborah been set free by his captors.

But that's fate, he said, adding that they could not do anything as to what happened to Ediborah.

"They said it was an encounter. Anything can happen," he said. Yap had two bullet wounds on the right shoulder and below the right armpit. ***With reports from Rolly San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AFP***

'Their lives were light in dark area'

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were in awe of his confident faith in the Lord Jesus."

Crane said Martin Burnham was always "graciously offering" to help the bandits carry their gear.

He said that on one occasion, Martin Burnham had a serious talk with Abu Sabaya about sin and how the bandit leader would stand before God's judgment.

Sabaya and his group of self-styled Moro independence fighters—whose main activity is kidnapping for ransom—have been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Should they die as martyrs of the cause, they have been promised everlasting happiness in paradise with 72 black-eyed virgins.

It wasn't clear from Crane's account if Sabaya saw the light.

Even so, Crane voiced hopes that "thousands would hear what a wonderful, loving and gracious God that we serve and that God will get much glory through Gracia's testimony."

Sister's account

For her part, Gracia Burnham's sister said her brother-in-law remained a loving husband during the couple's captivity.

For more than a year, Martin Burnham sang Gracia to sleep every night to keep her calm as they waited and hoped they would be rescued.

Gracia's sister, Mary Jones, yesterday flew to Manila to bring her home.

"She told me yesterday that every night he would sing to her," Jones said. "Songs that she didn't even know he knew, just because he knew it made her feel better. He really comforted her."

Gracia, 43, of Wichita, Kansas, was shot in the thigh, while her husband and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap were killed during Friday's rescue operation.

Jones, who lives in Jamestown, Ohio, said the couple had sensed something was about to happen because the Abu Sayyaf bandits kept the hostages constantly on the move for more than a week and had not fed them for nine days.

When they set up camp, the bandits stationed the hostages inside tents between them and where they thought the military would come, Jones said.

"So when the shooting started, they were immediately caught in the crossfire," she said. "They both knew that they were hit right away, but (Gracia Burnham) said that she could still breathe fine, so she thought that she was OK."

Gracia told her sister that she crawled to her husband, noticed blood on his upper body and knew his wounds were more serious.

Martin Burnham died during the assault while he and his wife were on the ground inside the tent, with him partially covering her, Jones said.

"This wasn't supposed to happen," Jones said. "They were both supposed to come home and be fine. I think our family is most hurt because they know how much Gracia loves Martin."

Jones, who was active in efforts to obtain the couple's release, said her sister sounded "incredibly good." ***With a report from AP***

AFP wants more US war materiel

From page A1

Friday's operations, largely by giving intelligence and advice to the Filipino troops involved in the raid.

More than 1,000 US troops have been training and assisting the Philippine military against the Abu Sayyaf, which has successfully evaded military pursuit operations in the past.

Ms Macapagal said more military training exercises would be conducted after the conclusion on July 31 of Balikatan 02-1, which is focused on the Abu Sayyaf.

"There'll be more that can be done until July 31 and even after July 31," the President said. "The Balikatan won't end here because training exercises are provided under the (RP-US) Visiting Forces Agreement."

End nears

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southern Command chief, yesterday said the end was near for the Abu Sayyaf.

Scout Rangers were trailing remnants of the bandit group on the islands of Basilan and Jolo and the neighboring province of Zamboanga del Norte where soldiers recovered American hostage Gracia Burnham in a firefight on Friday.

As of Sunday morning, no further clashes with the bandits were reported.

"We have broken (the Abu Sayyaf) backbone. They are now running, they are splintered, demoralized," Carolina said.

"It isn't just close. It is here," he said, referring to the group's destruction. "We have a complete list of the key leaders and other members who are important in the organization. All we have to do is get these key leaders."

Carolina said the group, which has a long history of kidnapping foreigners and Christians, had been reduced from a peak of 1,200 fighters to just 242.

About 20 bandits led by their spokesperson, Abu Sabaya, are being hunted down in Zamboanga del Norte, where they are believed to be hiding.

Carolina said he was optimistic that the bandits "could no longer move out from the area."

He said Sirawai and nearby towns like Sibuco, Siocon and Baliguian could serve as cover for the bandits.

Edwin Reseroni, who was snatched and forced to serve as the bandits' guide through the forest of Sirawai, said Sabaya's group was on its way to Sapah Baloy in Sibuco town, where another group of Abu Sayyaf members were allegedly waiting.

Sirawai Mayor Romeo Cariño expressed concern over the possibility of the bandits slipping through the military cordon.

"I already issued directives to my barangay chieftains to help guard and prevent the bandits from taking civilians," Cariño said.

Senior Supt. Marcelino Lipana, Zamboanga del Norte police chief, told the INQUIRER that he had sent policemen to guard the towns of Sibuco and Siocon.

The policemen, he said, would also act as blocking force.

Lipana ordered tight security measures at hospitals "for they (bandits) might repeat the Lamitan siege."

Carolina said he had enlisted the support of all local government executives in Mindanao in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf. "They gave assurance that they would make their areas inhospitable to the bandits," he said.

The Southcom chief said government troops were guarding more potential hiding grounds of the bandits. "We will make sure that Sabaya could no longer or be able to call his members or communicate with the other groups," he said.

The military claimed it had recovered Sabaya's cellular phone during last Friday's encounter.

Gunships

Carolina would not give details about the search but said his troops in that province had MG-520 helicopter gunships and 105-mm artillery at their disposal. Officers had earlier said as many as 600 soldiers were there, backed by the Air Force and Navy.

Carolina said three battalions, composed of 1,500 to 1,800 men, would arrive between Sunday and Tuesday to back up troops already hunting the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo, Basilan and Zamboanga del Norte.

All three mountainous, jungle-covered areas are in a 100-kilometer stretch of the Sulu Sea in the extreme southwest of the Philippines.

It wasn't clear how many troops were already involved in the offensives but a few thousand soldiers have been in the areas for months.

Gen. Roy Cimatu, AFP chief of staff, confirmed that more troops would be sent to Mindanao starting today.

"I have directed one battalion from the Visayas to beef up the troops in Mindanao," Cimatu said.

The deployment of troops, he said, was in line with his directive placing the Southern Command and Western and Central Command in the Visayas in full red alert.

Cimatu said the cities of Cagayan de Oro, General Santos, Davao, Cotabato and all other urban centers would be placed on "special watch."

The red alert will be observed in areas where there are plantations and forests, which can be used by the bandits as cover from pursuing government troops, he said.

Carolina said the bandits were more vulnerable after the loss of their hostages, who could be used as human shields. But he said the Army was still reluctant to bomb them from the air for fear of hitting pursuing troops.

More elusive

But a spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which disavows any links with the Abu Sayyaf, said the loss of the hostages would only make the group more mobile and elusive. ***With reports from Inquirer wires***

₱500 bread gave Abu Sayyaf away

From page A1

ended a yearlong hostage crisis in the jungles of Mindanao, according to an Associated Press report.

After the gun battle with the Abu Sayyaf bandits on Friday, the US-trained troops rescued a wounded American missionary Gracia Burnham. But her husband Martin and a Filipino hostage, Ediborah Yap, were killed.

The mission, dubbed "Operation Daybreak," followed a month of surveillance that indicated the bandits had abandoned their mountain hideouts on the island province of Basilan.

The group had sailed to the densely wooded mountains of nearby Zamboanga del Norte, where they were ambushed and sent them scrambling deeper into the jungle.

The firefight happened near Sirawai, a wide expanse of misty, steep mountains with deep ravines, thick foliage and coconut trees.

Coconut meat

During a military briefing on Saturday, officers told reporters that troops knew they were closing in on the bandits as they found bloodstained cloth, discarded coconut meat and other clues on jungle trails.

On Friday morning, footprints led the Scout Rangers to a creek at the bottom of a deep ravine, where they saw about 30 bandits resting on tent-covered hammocks during a downpour, said Army Lt. Col. Jessie Dellosa, who helped monitor the operation from a nearby outpost.

That's when the soldiers proudly announced, "Bull's eye, sir," the officer said. "Our troops crept slowly down the creek to within 15 meters of the (Abu Sayyaf) position," Dellosa said.

The soldiers were under orders not to fire until they knew exactly where the hostages were. But one of the unsuspecting bandits got up to relieve himself and accidentally saw the soldiers, who opened fire, said Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, who commanded thousands of troops involved in the rescue mission.

After the fierce gun battle that lasted less than an hour, the bodies of Martin Burnham and Yap were found near the corpses of three bandits.

Seven soldiers were injured, and Gracia Burnham was slumped on the ground with a bullet wound in the leg, Dellosa said.

She recognized the Scout Ranger patch on the uniform of a soldier who approached her.

"You are a Scout Ranger," military officials quoted Gracia as telling the soldier. "Please don't leave me behind."

She was clutching a bag of letters written by her husband for their children and a bunch of family pictures the couple kept in captivity.

Costly mistakes

Dellosa said the bandit group led by Abu Sabaya committed costly mistakes that allowed soldiers to find them.

Constantly pressured by a massive military offensive on Basilan, the bandits fled to the vast jungle expanse in Zamboanga del Norte, losing the crucial advantages they enjoyed on the island: knowledge of the rough terrain, support from communities and cellular phone signals that allowed easy communication, Dellosa said.

Edwin Reseroni, a 30-year-old logging company worker kidnapped this month by the bandits in Zamboanga del Norte, recalled how the bandits were stumbling around in the jungle, apparently unaware the troops were closing in on them.

He said their last meal before the ambush consisted of several handfuls of uncooked rice.

"They don't know the place," he said. "They were lost."

Not bungled

In Manila, the Department of National Defense defended the military operation that resulted in the death of Yap and Martin Burnham.

"I believe that this is not a bungled operation," said Melchor Rosales, newly designated DND spokesperson.

"It was, on the whole, a successful mission. It's just very unfortunate that some lives were lost," he said.

Rosales, a retired Air Force major general and current administrator of the Office of Civil Defense, said many factors influenced the outcome of the operation.

"We were not dealing with an inanimate enemy. The enemy is armed. It is ruthless. It does not follow any rules. It was in a very heavily forested area. The enemy was operating in an area where it had alliances with lost commands," he said.

"In combat, there are variables that are not all under our full control. These are the realities of combat," Rosales said.

He could not discuss what actually happened during the clash on Friday, saying the DND has yet to receive an official report from the Southern Command. ***With reports from AP and Martin P. Marfil***

Hundred Presidents
Invitational Golf Tournament
A Special Feature
INQUIRER Golf Monthly
June 2002 Issue

Case vs NPA founder shows land reform rot

From page A1

After he was released from prison by President Corazon Aquino in 1986, Buscayno stirred international attention by organizing and leading peasant cooperatives in his home province of Tarlac. But his People's Livelihood Foundation Inc. (PLFI) and Tarlac Integrated Livelihood Foundation (Tilco), hailed as a showcase of countryside development during the Aquino administration, failed to live up to their promise.

But that wasn't the worst of it. Documents obtained and interviews conducted by the INQUIRER show that Buscayno most likely skirted land reform to secure some 55 hectares of land for the two organizations—causing the displacement of original tillers like Mendoza, and placing some 53 hectares under the beneficial ownership of Buscayno himself and his relatives.

Buscayno denies committing any wrongdoing against Mendoza or other farmers that the old man claimed had also been displaced.

"To this date I am poor. I am no crook," he said in Filipino on April 6. Except for Mendoza, he insisted that no farmers were displaced by the PLFI and Tilco.

Reached for a second and final interview on May 24, he turned hostile. Shouting at the INQUIRER team, he discredited the scrutiny, saying it was prompted out of bias for Mendoza. His outburst came after he read a set of 15 questions, which had been prepared on his request. He refused to examine the documents the team brought for verification. He claimed the INQUIRER had a "sinister purpose" in interviewing him.

"You want to use us to find fault with the DAR (Department of Agrarian Reform) and to have the titles canceled," he said in Filipino.

Mulberry plantation

In 1990, Buscayno, as PLFI president, bought five parcels of agricultural land in Balanti, totaling almost 70 hectares, from Romeo Carriedo, who had acquired them in 1986 from Roman de Jesus.

Worth P1.32 million, the five parcels were supposed to be developed as a plantation for a mulberry project funded by the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC). The project was abandoned immediately after the 1991 eruption of Mt. Pinatubo turned large tracts of Pampanga and Tarlac into a lahar wasteland.

In 1992, three parcels of land in Barangay Armenia, totaling at least 18.3 hectares, were bought from the Espinosa family for P400,000. While the deed of sale showed that neither Buscayno nor the PLFI bought the properties, the buyer was identified as one Romeo Acoba, an incorporator and major shareholder of the cooperative. (Fifteen more hectares were bought, but the deed is said to be not in the possession of the Register of Deeds.)

These acquisitions were made even though the law regulates the sale of agricultural lands in excess of five hectares, and land reform was already in full swing in Balanti and Armenia.

In Balanti, 62 emancipation patents (EPs) for 1,112 hectares were issued to 49 farmers between 1987 and 2000. In Armenia, 338 Certificate of Land Ownership Awards (Cloas) for 606 hectares were granted to 384 farmers between 1990 and 2000.

The acquisitions disrupted tenurial relations and delayed land reform in the De Jesus and Espinosa properties. These lands had original tillers like Mendoza who should have enjoyed a greater chance to become CARP beneficiaries.

DAR technician Erlinda Lundang attributes the delay in coverage to the Pinatubo eruption and subsequent lahar flows. As the list of registered Cloas and EPs show, this was not exactly true, because DAR resumed the program shortly after the disaster.

Direct hand

When the parcels of land were finally "CARP-ed" in 1998, Buscayno exercised a direct hand. He acted as the attorney-in-fact for the heirs of De Jesus and Espinosa for at least four parcels of land.

In the end, Buscayno, his son Red, his brother Juanito and six other relatives became the beneficiaries of 22.9 hectares of the De Jesus land. At least 10 of the 12 beneficiaries of the 31.7 hectares included in the Espinosa property were also Buscayno's relatives.

Mendoza and other longtime tenants or applicants were excluded. They said they had great difficulty tracing documents establishing their tenancy or their length of cultivation, and that the DAR Tarlac City office not only delayed the release of documents but provided limited documents.

The CARP requires that commercial farms (a category under which PLFI's mulberry tree plantation falls) be subject to compulsory acquisition by the government. But the only two parcels of land "CARP-ed" in 1998 and 1999 in Balanti, properties which were owned by PLFI, were treated differently.

While the mode of land redistribution in the area was generally through compulsory acquisition and voluntary offer to sell, the PLFI properties were conveyed through voluntary land transfer via direct payments to the owners. Under this scheme, the owners, not the DAR, were the ultimate dispensers of the land.

As it turned out, the Cloa for a 15.9-hectare lot went to six relatives of Buscayno.

Another Cloa, which originated only from a land covered by a tax declaration, was awarded to 10 people. Two of those reached for interview said they did not even know they were beneficiaries.

"In 1998, Dante asked us to submit applications for coverage at the DAR. Nothing came of it anyway," said Benjamin Ramos, a village councilor and one of the supposed Cloa holders.

He and his brothers, all sons of the late Enrique, are still tilling a 6-hectare lot on a share-crop system, although all of the family's lands in Balanti have been sold to the PLFI.

In Armenia, the general mode of transfer was through compulsory acquisition. The Espinosa properties, however, were also conveyed through voluntary land transfer. Again, most of the beneficiaries were relatives of Buscayno.

Buscayno explained that none of the beneficiaries were made to pay for the land. He maintains they were members of Tilco and deserved to be awarded parcels of land.

Three of his relatives insist, however, that their kin were never rooted in Balanti or in Armenia and therefore could not have toiled on the land.

Original tillers

In researching the names of the original tillers of the De Jesus and Espinosa properties, the INQUIRER was not able to source a single document from Pacifico Bautista, barangay agrarian reform chair (BARC) in Balanti. The paper was able to ascertain the names only through interviews with tenants, heirs, Bautista himself and BARC Eutequiano Tabios of Armenia.

By the INQUIRER's count, the tillers in the De Jesus land were Mendoza, his daughter Corazon, Restituta de Ocera, Tommy Garcia, Carlos Ramos, Enrique Ramos and Africano Singian. Aside from Enrique Ramos, five other men—Fausto Day and Basilio, Francisco, Ignacio and Lorenzo Garcia, who died in the late 1990s—left without winning ownership of the land.

Singian, Tommy Garcia and Carlos and Enrique Ramos were listed as holders of Certificates of Land Transfer as far back as 1974.

"*Gang kalublob alang mitagan* (We got nothing, not even a patch of soil)," said Cecilia Singian, airing the lament of her husband Alberto, Africano Singian's son.

Only Avelino Feliciano and Avelino Espinosa, original tillers in the Espinosa properties, managed to stay—but only after asserting their rights to continue working on the land, according to BARC Tabios. The two were also listed as holders of Cloas, something which Tabios said he has no knowledge of.

Six other tenants—Antonio de Guzman, three other De Guzmans and Guillermo and Honorato Bello—moved elsewhere. Only the Bellos were compensated, Tabios said.

Where's the reward?

From page A1

Bernardo Reseroni and his son Edwin, who was rescued after the encounter, want to claim part of the $5-million (P250 million) reward offered by the United States to both Filipinos and foreigners who may have information leading to the capture of the top 5 Abu Sayyaf leaders.

Bernardo said he informed the military about his discovery of a pair of slippers and a ballpen that belonged to his son.

Edwin was snatched by the bandits on June 2 to serve as their guide through the unfamiliar jungles of Zamboanga del Norte. Edwin said he intentionally left his slippers and pen to leave clues behind.

Scout Rangers led by Lt. Oliver Almonares followed the trail of footprints that eventually led them to the location of the bandits. The soldiers were also assisted by Alejandro Ebo, a Cafgu (Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit member) of the 44th Infantry Battalion. Ebo acted as the soldiers' guide through the mountains.

At the very least, the Reseronis will be receiving a reward from the Philippine government.

"They are entitled to a token of reward," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "They gave us vital information, and this also goes to anybody who could spot or see any of the members of Abu Sabaya's group within the area."

"We are really thankful to the Reseronis, that is why we are giving them a reward," Cimatu said, adding that the amount was still being discussed.

Cimatu said the United States might provide some reward to the Reseronis, but "it will depend on the US government. They will be the one who will decide on that."

On May 29, Ambassador Francis Ricciardone announced that the US Department of State was offering up to $5 million for information that can "help bring the Abu Sayyaf terrorists to justice."

It was not clear if Ebo could also avail himself of the dollar-denominated reward.

Who owns Meralco?

A number of misinformed statements have been made by various sources ranging from a paid ad in this newspaper on June 3, 2002, remarks by the daughter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to forces led by a former coup leader and agit-prop spokesmen from radical leftist groups, about how the Lopez family regained their position at Meralco.

We are appalled at the brazen attempt to mislead the Filipino people with outright falsehoods and in the process cast aspersions not just on our good name but on other people as well, such as former President Corazon C.Aquino. In the interest of fairness, allow us to set the record straight based on verifiable documents in the public domain.

Falsehood no. 1 - *Mrs. Aquino (then) returned Meralco to its previous owners without making them pay despite the fact that both Meralco's generation and distribution facilities were earlier paid them by the government for about P1.2 billion.*

First of all, Mrs.Aquino was not involved in the reacquisition by First Philippine Holdings Corporation (FPHC), previously known as Meralco Securities Corporation (MSC) of some of its Meralco shares. Before the Marcos dictatorship, MSC owned 100% of Meralco.

The fact is, in 1978, Meralco Foundation Inc (which is not a government entity but a private foundation organized in 1973) acquired all the Meralco shares then owned by MSC on an installment basis for a total price of P872,754,365. Meralco Foundation made payments up to 1985 when it defaulted. In accordance with the Share Purchase Agreement between FPHC and MFI, the default caused unpaid shares to revert to FPHC to the extent of the unpaid balance.

Accordingly, Meralco Foundation returned 13.9 million shares equivalent to 32.41 % ownership of Meralco to FPHC in 1988. The basis of the reversion was reviewed by then Secretary of Justice Sedfrey Ordonez and former Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee who separately gave opinions that it was fair and just that the unpaid Meralco shares should be reconveyed to FPHC. A second review was conducted by the heads of government financial institutions after which, the negotiations were reopened with regards to certain terms of the agreements.

In its decision dated September 30, 1991, the Supreme Court affirmed the reversion of the 13.9 million shares to FPHC. As a result of that decision, and because FPHC subsequently sold or bought shares in the market, FPHC now directly and indirectly owns 20% of Meralco compared to the 100% it owned before martial law.

All in all, it took five long years, from 1986 to 1991, for FPHC to finally regain possession of its Meralco shares. Furthermore, **the only shares FPHC took back are the shares Meralco Foundation failed to pay for.**

On the second point about Meralco's generation and distribution facilities having been earlier paid by the government for about P1.2 billion, the facts are:

The transaction involved was the acquisition by Napocor during martial law of Meralco's generation facilities only. **FPHC has never reclaimed those generation facilities. They are, today, still owned by Napocor.**

The government never owned Meralco, before or during martial law. Meralco was purchased by Meralco Foundation, a private entity set up without public money and, in fact, without any capitalization at all. It derived its income from the dividends of Meralco and used those dividends to pay FPHC for those shares. In other words *ginisa nila ang FPHC sa sariling mantika.* What happened to FPHC (and the Lopez family) is similar to a village bully buying your house and paying you in installment out of the rental from the house.

Falsehood no. 2. *Prior to its return to its previous owners, Meralco was owned by the government which set up the Meralco Foundation from public funds and since Mrs. Corazon Aquino did not make them pay, logically, Meralco should belong to the Filipino people today.*

The second point is, Meralco Foundation was not set up with government funds. In fact, Meralco Foundation was set up with no funds, as previously explained above.

Thirdly, on the allegation that "Mrs.Aquino did not make them pay", Mrs. Aquino couldn't have made FPHC pay because it was, as explained above, merely reacquiring shares that were not paid for by Meralco Foundation. Besides, **the entire process of returning the shares was thoroughly reviewed as described above.** The only role of Mrs. Aquino as President was to make sure that the transaction was done in the most transparent manner and that's why the shares were sequestered by the PCGG, making it necessary to go to the Supreme Court for a final review of the transaction and the release of the shares.

For the record, Meralco Foundation was the same entity that acquired the Lopez family's 27.5% ownership of FPHC in 1974 for an unbelievable downpayment of P10,000 pesos out of a purchase price of P150,000,000. Any money due to the Lopezes, after paying the banks, was on a "pay when able" basis. Does that look like a transaction that any sane and savvy businessman like the late Eugenio Lopez Sr. would do out of his own free will? The letters being cited leading to the transaction that made it seem like a voluntary sale initiated by Mr. Lopez Sr. were letters dictated by Marcos emissaries. Given the martial law situation and the fact that the son of Lopez Sr., Eugenio "Geny" Lopez Jr. was at the time rotting in jail, can there be any doubt that it is a transaction done under duress?

Thus, on August 23, 1990, the above-mentioned transaction between Benpres and MFI was partially rescinded in arbitration proceedings under R.A. 876 presided by retired Supreme Court Justice J.B.L. Reyes. This resulted in 10,645,047 FPHC shares being returned to the Lopez family.

Don't change history

It is unfortunate that in the course of the highly emotional debates about the PPA, those who were involved in implementing the draconian martial law measures of Mr. Marcos have chosen to once again make fresh a dark and traumatic time in our family's history. But in so doing, we find it totally disgusting that an attempt is also being made to rewrite history with falsehoods.

Suffice it to say that **the Lopez family has done nothing we should be ashamed for with regard to Meralco.** When our father bought Meralco from its American owners, it was out of a sense of nationalism and an expression of his belief that not only should Filipinos take control of their destiny, but also that they are capable of doing so. The buyout of Meralco from its American owners was a milestone in our nation's economic history, the largest financial deal at the time. It should be a source of pride for every Filipino.

We are also proud to point out that during the time when Meralco controlled generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in its franchise area, the cost of electricity was the second lowest in the region as verified by a United Press International survey. Service efficiency also marked our watch. Recurrent blackouts were not in the vocabulary of Metro Manilans until the martial law government of Marcos took control of the generating plants and ran Napocor to the ground.

Who owns Meralco?

Who owns Meralco? Meralco is a publicly-held corporation. It is not owned by the Lopez family alone. We are but one of the many groups and individuals who have placed their savings and investible funds in Meralco. Customers and employees of Meralco have also been given the chance to own Meralco shares through an affordable stock purchase plan. Through FPHC, we account for 20% ownership of Meralco. Government owns 22% and occupies 3 board seats. There are about 70,000 individuals, corporations and partnerships registered as Meralco stockholders, including about 6,000 Meralco employees. It was obvious in the fully packed auditorium during the last stockholders meeting that the owners of Meralco represent a broad segment of our society.

Finally, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate our public service philosophy to always strive to give our people the best service at the lowest possible price. Reductions in PPA charges are now being implemented by government with payments to be postponed to later years. But there are more permanent solutions. For instance, the PPA can be reduced by about P1.00/kwh if Napocor dispatches the contracted volumes from Meralco's more efficient IPPs and if Meralco customers are finally rid of the onerous burden of subsidizing other Napocor customers in Visayas, Mindanao and non-Meralco areas of Luzon through Napocor rates that impose a charge of P0.40/kwh on Meralco consumers for electricity they do not consume. Meralco has also refused to pay Napocor accumulated penalties/charges of P5.7 billion to be passed on to consumers because Meralco believes that the penalties/charges are onerous.

We hope these facts help clear the air of the falsehoods being peddled lately. We want to reassure the public that as part of the legacy of our father, the late Eugenio Lopez Sr., we are always at the service of the Filipino.

Oscar M. Lopez

Manuel M. Lopez

Presentacion L. Psinakis

Eugenio Lopez III
For Eugenio Lopez Jr.

adv

Lewis KOs Tyson, keeps 'heavy' titles

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Britain's Lennox Lewis knocked out Mike Tyson with a powerful right hand blow after two minutes and 25 seconds of the eighth round here Saturday to retain his world heavyweight boxing crowns.

Lewis rose to 40-2 with one drawn after his 31st pro knockout to retain the World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation heavyweight titles while former undisputed world champion Tyson fell to 49-4.

A punishing right hand to the chin spelled doom for Tyson, who had been punished round after round by the champion's superior jab and solid rights and uppercuts.

Lewis rose to 14-2 with one draw in world title fights while Tyson fell to 11-4.

Tyson had not lost since the infamous 1997 "Bite Fight" when he was disqualified in the third round for biting Evander Holyfield's ears. Lewis was knocked out 14 months ago by Hasim Rahman but won a rematch last November to regain the titles.

Lewis inflicted steady punishment throughout the seventh round, staggering the former champion with a flurry of six punches to Tyson's head in rapid succession.

A Lewis uppercut made Tyson squat early in the eighth round and seconds later, two more punishing uppercuts set the stage for the left jab and powerful right to the jaw that sent Tyson to the canvas.

Tyson tried to rise in vain, then was counted out and spent several moments in the arms of referee Eddie Cotton.

Tyson was aggressive at the start, using his left to open a path to the larger Lewis, working his jab and evading Lewis' longer reach.

But Lewis was soon scoring repeatedly with his left jab, using his size to full advantage. Lewis landed a hard right uppercut to Tyson's chin in the second round and in the third opened a cut over Tyson's right eye.

Cotton took a point from Lewis in the fourth round, one the British fighter dominated, after Tyson was doubled over and Lewis hit him in the back. Tyson went to the mat but Lewis was not awarded a knockdown.

Lewis scored with uppercuts and used his left jab to set up his powerful rights, Tyson becoming more and more reluctant to even try and get within the champion's reach as the rounds wore on.

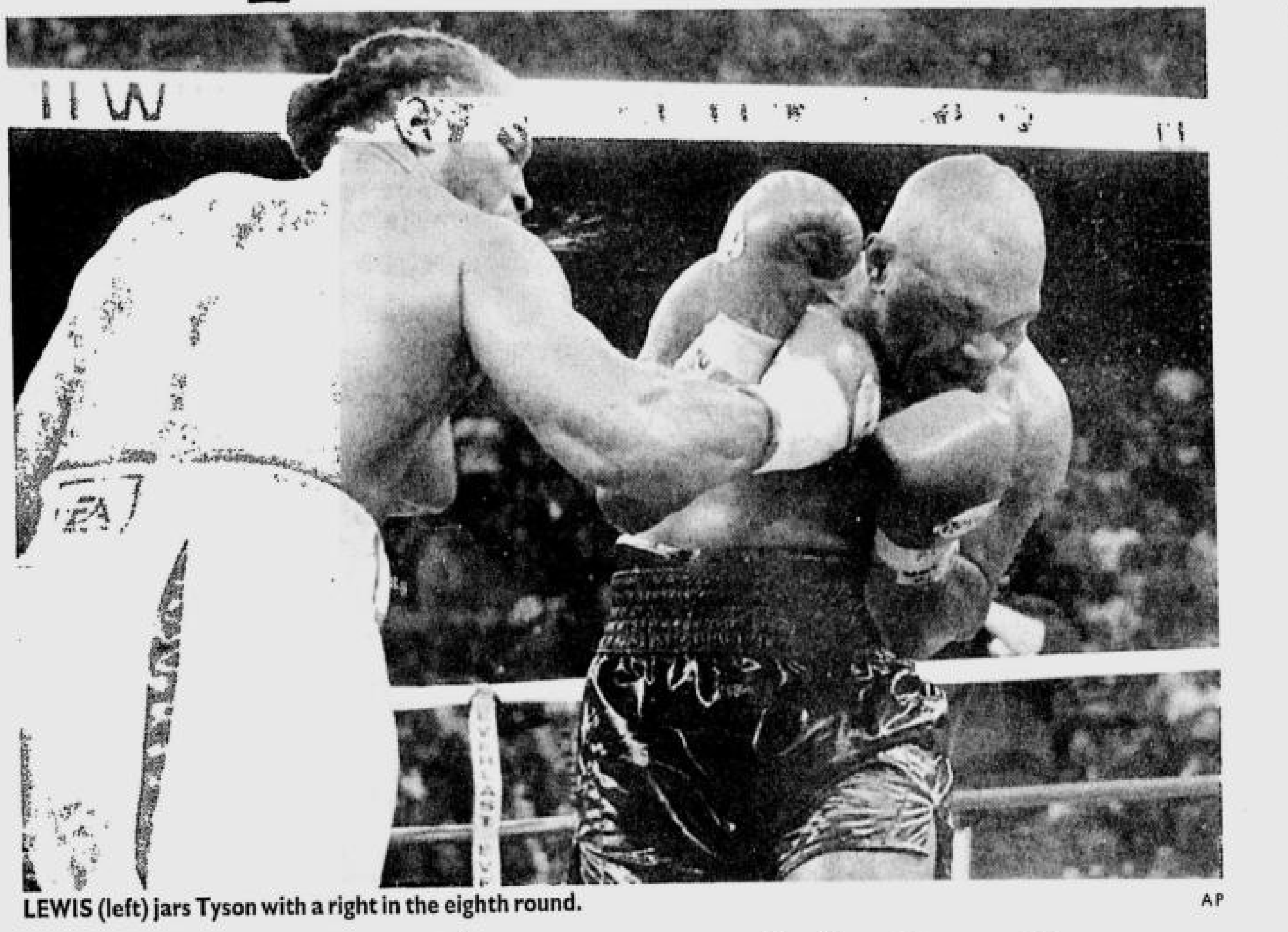
It was the first fight between Tyson, the most dominant fighter of the 1980s, and Lewis, the best of the 1990s. Tyson had fought less than 19 full rounds in the past five years. Lewis fought 12 fights in the same span.

Armed police officers escorted both fighters into the ring, Tyson arriving to a mixture of cheers and jeers and Lewis to a less vocal reception of mainly cheers.

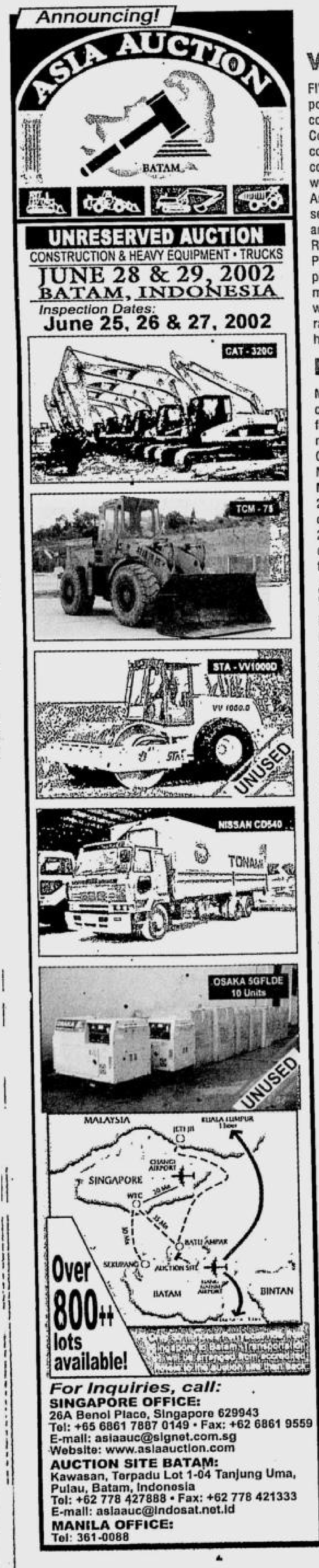
The fight began without the usual touching of gloves, each man having been given instructions in his locker room, and a line of security guards stretched across the center of the ring from neutral corners to ensure no pre-fight brawling.

Unprecedented security measures kept hundreds of spectators, some paying as much as $2,400 a seat, lined up outside the Pyramid arena.

Each fighter was guaranteed $17.5 million, although Lewis, 36, figures to make up to $25 million while Tyson, 35, will take away far less than $17.5 million, having to satisfy debts from prior fight contracts. *AFP*



LEWIS (left) jars Tyson with a right in the eighth round. AP



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SPORTSWATCH

Velayo bets sparkle

FIVE dark horse entries, two of them owned by popular sportsman Raymond Velayo, emerged as co-champions in Mandaluyong Coliseum's 9-Cock International Derby Saturday night. The just-concluded event will be succeeded by the ASF 4-cock derby, which will have its submission of weights today, Monday, June 10. Velayo's bets—Arnis Master II and Arnis Master Ag-Sur-posted seven victories each to become the winningest among the 56 participants. He shared the title with Rep. Ompong Plaza and former Congressman Peping Cojuangco, who willingly lent their ace pitfighters to Velayo. "It is the first time in many, many years that I became an international derby winner, and double champion at that. It's indeed a rare feat and I think *ngayon lang nangyari ito sa* history *ng sabong*," Velayo said.

Mandaluyong derby

MANDALUYONG Coliseum presents a special 4-cock derby on June 25, with Sagupaan Super feeds and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug as major sponsors. Hosts of the event is the OPMI Office Staff led by Joel Ngo, Rody Torres and Maricar Gonzaga to be assisted by its president, Mr. Vic Yu. Entries must be submitted on June 24, starting at 2 p.m. Interested parties may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341. Meanwhile, the ASF and Company 4-cock derby will also be held at Mandaluyong Coliseum tomorrow.

Smith paces Buick

HARRISON, New York—Chris Smith crashed David Gossett and Loren Roberts' Tennessee reunion Saturday, shooting a 4-under 67 to take the third-round lead in the Buick Classic. Smith, a five-time winner on the Buy.com Tour, was a stroke ahead of the neighbors from Germantown, Tennessee, at 11-under 202 on the Westchester Country Club's West Course. The 23-year-old Gossett, with sister Joni caddying, shot a 70, and Roberts, three weeks short of his 47th birthday, had a 71. Pat Perez and Canadian Ian Leggatt were two strokes behind, and Jerry Kelly followed at 8-under. *AP*

Daniel nears diadem

WILMINGTON, Delaware—Beth Daniel showed the youngsters how to get it done Saturday in the LPGA Championship, and was one round away from becoming the oldest woman to win a major title. Daniel, 45 and without a victory in seven years, kept her distance with three straight birdies and closed out her round of 3-under 68 with a 25-foot (7.5-meter) birdie putt that expanded her lead to four strokes over Se Ri Pak. The oldest woman to win a major was the late Babe Zaharias, who was 42 years, 11 months when she captured the 1954 U.S. Women's Open. *AP*

Mexico 3rd team with 2 wins; Japan surprises Russia, 1-0

YOKOHAMA, Japan—Gerardo Terrado's goal made Mexico one of only three teams so far to win its first two games at the World Cup.

Costa Rican forward Winston Parks' nifty left-footed shot put Brazil into the championships' second round on a day when it was not playing.

Meanwhile, striker Diego Tristan and defender Juanfran Garcia starred for Spain - but off the pitch. They sang and danced at a party while the Spaniards waited for the rest of the World Cup to catch up with them.

Through 27 of the 48 first-round games, only Spain had clinched a place in the second round. After 28, Brazil joined it when Costa Rica's 1-1 draw with Turkey eliminated any danger that Brazil would not be in Group C's top two. That result also eliminated China from contention.

Junichi Inamoto scored his second goal of the tournament as Japan earned its first World Cup finals victory after shocking Russia, 1-0, in Group H late Sunday night.

Japan, playing in its second World Cup, now has four points while Russia has three.

Mexico, however, still has not locked up a second-round berth. It needs a draw with Italy, or help from Ecuador against Coatia.

Spain took most of the weekend off before resuming practice for its final first-round game on Wednesday against South Africa, which still has a chance to advance.

Against Mexico, Ecuador's Agustin Delgado headed home a cross from Ulises De la Cruz in the 5th minute, scoring Ecuador's first-ever goal in the World Cup finals. Mexico's Jared Borgetti equalized in the 28th minute, and Torrado got the winner in the 57th.

Parks scored the tying goal for Costa Rica in the 86th minute, finding a mostly open net after teammate Paulo Wanchope headed the ball down and Hernan Medford kicked it across the goalmouth.

Off the pitch, authorities in South Korea were planning the heaviest security yet in the tournament for the co-host's game against the United States on Monday. *AP*

WORLD CUP 2002 STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Group A							
Denmark	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Senegal	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Uruguay	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
France	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Group B							
Spain	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
South Africa	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Paraguay	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Slovenia	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Group C							
Brazil	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Costa Rica	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Turkey	2	0	0	1	2	3	1
China	2	0	0	2	0	6	0
Group D							
Korea	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
USA	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Portugal	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Poland	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Group E							
Germany	2	1	1	0	9	1	4
Cameroon	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Rep Ireland	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Saudi Arabia	2	0	0	2	0	9	0
Group F							
Sweden	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
England	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Argentina	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Nigeria	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Group G							
Mexico	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Italy	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Croatia	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Ecuador	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Group H							
Japan	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Russia	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Belgium	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

RP aces enter 9-ball semis

By Dennis Eroa

FILIPINO aces Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante clash with American sensation Corey Deuel and Japanese number Kunihiko Takahashi, respectively, in the crossover semifinals of the 2002 Motolite 9-Ball World Challenge yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Reyes completed a sweep of his elimination assignments by besting reigning US Open titleholder Deuel, 7-4, while Bustamante advanced despite losing a controversial 7-6 decision to Japanese ace Kunihiko Takahashi. While Reyes, who topped the eliminations with a 4-0 card, earned thunderous applause from the fans, Bustamante's form left jaded observers wondering.

Bustamante finished with a second-best 2-2 record and will meet Takahashi (3-1) anew in the semis starting at 4 p.m. The winners of today's matches (race to 9) will dispute the $15,000 champion's purse in a race-to-13 final.

Serena beats Venus

PARIS—The French Open was hers, no more shots to chase or winners to produce. Still, Serena Williams didn't want to look her opponent in the eye.

It's never easy to compete against your sister—or beat her.

Tying their Sister Slam series at one title apiece, Serena stopped older sibling Venus 7-5, 6-3 Saturday at Roland Garros in a final that was far more competitive, if just as sloppy, as their championship match at the U.S. Open nine months ago.

And although they combined for 101 unforced errors, 14 double faults and 13 service breaks, Venus thought the match was picture-perfect: She grabbed their mother's camera and joined the horde of photographers snapping shots of Serena holding the shimmering trophy.

"Hopefully, we can build a rivalry and we'll be able to do this a lot," said 20-year-old Serena, 15 months younger than Venus. "Make a legacy, then retire champions."

She collected her second Grand Slam title—the other was the family's first, at the 1999 US Open. Venus won Wimbledon and the US Open each of the past two years, meaning a Williams has captured six of the past 11 majors. *AP*

Independence Day bash slated at Eagle Ridge GC

THE SPANKING main clubhouse of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite will be opened for the use of its members in time with the Independence Day break and their monthly tournament this Saturday.

Amenities in the golf clubhouse of the 12,000-square meter facility, the biggest of three in the sprawling golf complex, were completed weeks after the opening of the first nine holes of the gentle Norman course.

The clubhouse was inaugurated recently during the RPDEV tournament where former president Fidel Ramos, his wife Ming, Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Eagle Ridge GCC chair Tommy Alcantara Nicasio Alcantara of Alsons Land Corp., and Sta. Lucia Realty president Exequiel Robles graced the festivities.

Alsons Land and Sta. Lucia Realty are joint venture partners in the Eagle Ridge project, which will become one of Asia's largest by the time the back nine of the Norman is finished at year-end.

As it is, Eagle's current 63 holes is already the most in the country, for a traffic-free advantage that keeps a steady flow of not just members but foreign and local guests.

Already operational are the three championship courses designed by noted designers Andy Dye, Nick Faldo and Japanese legend Isao Aoki all of which are diverse in character.

One of the major activities on Independence Day is the biggest gathering of Korean golfers here in years.

The Dye course and clubhouse will be closed specially for them during the day.

Tee-off for the event organized by the Korean Investors Association is 7 a.m.

On Saturday, it's the turn of the members for their June tournament sponsored by Titleist, through its local distributor Dynamic Sports and Leisure Corp. sheaded by Chris Tang.

Titleist will be providing the prize package for the tourney at the Faldo course that will be participated in by no less than 150 players.

Apart from the clubhouse inauguration, the Ramos couple also joined club officials in a ceremonial tree planting.

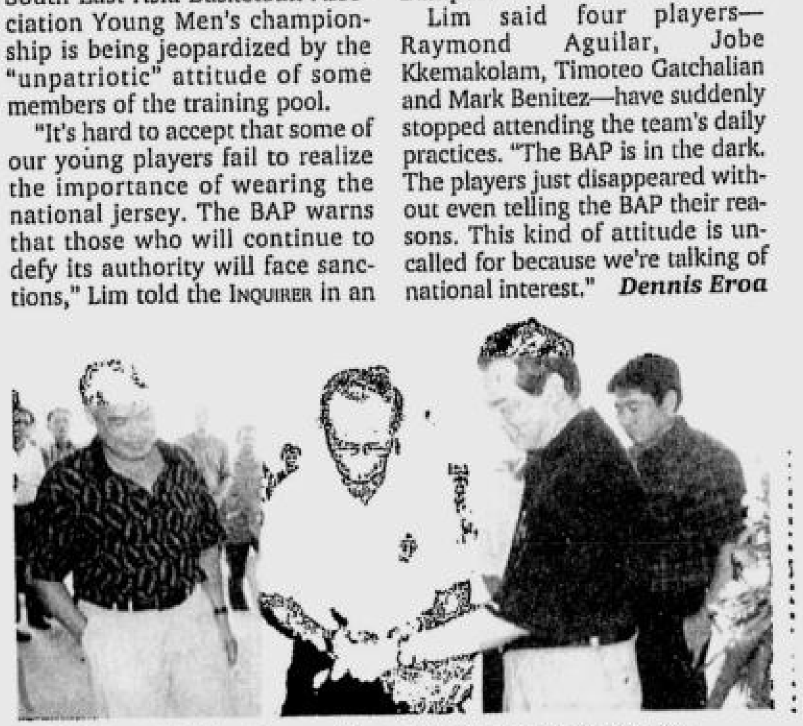
BAP warns erring players

GRAHAM Lim, secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, yesterday said the country's preparations for the 3rd South East Asia Basketball Association Young Men's championship is being jeopardized by the "unpatriotic" attitude of some members of the training pool.

"It's hard to accept that some of our young players fail to realize the importance of wearing the national jersey. The BAP warns that those who will continue to defy its authority will face sanctions," Lim told the INQUIRER in an exclusive interview. "The BAP will assert its authority."

The Philippines will defend its 18 and under title in Kuala Lumpur.

Lim said four players—Raymond Aguilar, Jobe Kkemakolam, Timoteo Gatchalian and Mark Benitez—have suddenly stopped attending the team's daily practices. "The BAP is in the dark. The players just disappeared without even telling the BAP their reasons. This kind of attitude is uncalled for because we're talking of national interest." *Dennis Eroa*



RAMOS puts his signature on the ceremonial ribbon during the inauguration of the Eagle clubhouse. Looking on are, from left, ERGCC director Nick Alcantara, ERGCC chair Tommy Alcantara, Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi (partly hidden) and Sta. Lucia president Exequiel Robles

Can Red Bull retain its crown?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ACKNOWLEDGING the vacuum in the slot was their weakest point in a miserable campaign in the last PBA Governors' Cup where they lost big men Mick Pennisi and Davonn Harp to the national training team and Kerby Raymundo to Purefoods in an off-season trade, Batang Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao said he is not facing the same problem again in the forthcoming Commissioner's Cup where the Thunder is the defending champion.

"*Hindi na mahina sa gitna ngayon,*" said 42-year-old Guiao in an interview. "Davonn Harp is back to man the slot while certified center Julius Nwosu, who has been rehired, is playing perfectly well in practice having recovered form a crippling back injury. The team is ready to defend the title."

Guiao added the players are bristling with newfound confidence chiefly because the imports are blending well with the locals. "Besides, Red Bull will have no problem with the combined maximum height limit of 13 feet and six inches for the two imports in this conference since Nwosu is 6-foot-8 while partner Tony Lang is 6-foot-7."

With an intact lineup, the defending champion is definitely a force to reckon with in the Commissioner's Cup which starts on June 16 at the Araneta Coliseum. The opening twinbill pits Shell against Talk N Text at 3:45 p.m. and Red Bull against Barangay Ginebra in the main game at 5:45 p.m.

"This team will always play its best," said low-key franchise owner George Chua. "Our modest success is a reflection of a lot of prayers, hard work and dedication."

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Finals – LA Lakers vs New Jersey Nets, Game 3 at 9 a.m. on ESPN (r – 8:30 p.m.) and NBN 4 (r – 5:30 p.m.)
MOTOR SPORTS: F1- Air Canada Grand Prix at 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
SOCCER: World Cup Today at 11:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

War Emblem falls short

NEW YORK—The start was the end of War Emblem's run for a Triple Crown, a stumble out of the gate that nearly dropped the black colt to his knees.

And just like that, the front-runner was behind in the Belmont Stakes. And just like that, trainer Bob Baffert came up short again in this third try to win racing's most coveted prize.

Instead, the winner was Sarava who beat Medaglia d'Oro by a half length and, at 70-1, became the longest shot to take the Belmont in its 134-year history.

"We were doomed," Baffert said. "It was gut-wrenching to have to watch the whole race."

War Emblem was eased up in the stretch by jockey Victor Espinoza and finished eighth in the field of 11 3-year-olds.

"I said the only thing that could beat us was a bad break," Baffert said. "Victor did the best he could. If I had a walkie-talkie I would have told him to pull up right there. I didn't want him running a mile and a half like that."

SARAVA (left) passes Medaglia d'Oro.
AFP

Sent off as the 6-5 favorite by a record-crowd of 103,222 that jammed the grandstand at Belmont Park, War Emblem just ran out of gas in the final turn of the demanding 1-1/2-mile (2.4-kilometer) test—the longest of the Triple Crown series.

But heartbreak is nothing new to Baffert at this track.

In 1997, Silver Charm lost by three-quarters of a length to Touch Gold, and in 1998, Real Quiet was beaten by a nose by Victory Gallop.

Sarava returned a record $142.50 for a $2 bet. The previous mark was $132.10 by Sherluck, who spoiled Carry Back's bid for a Triple Crown in 1961.

Ridden by Peruvian jockey Edgar Prado, Sarava earned a spot in the Belmont off his victory in the Sir Barton Stakes on Preakness day three weeks ago. Owned by New Phoenix Stable and Susan Roy, Sarava won in a slow time of 2:29.71, more than five seconds off Secretariat's world record.

Sarava, the second longest shot in the field, earned $600,000 for the win, his third in nine career starts.

War Emblem, a black beauty of a racehorse, became the 16th Derby-Preakness winner to fail in the Belmont.

Medaglia d'Oro, ridden by Kent Desormeaux, had his best race in the Triple Crown series after finishing fourth in the Derby and eighth in the Preakness. *AP*

Ateneo battles Shark

GAMES TODAY
(Pasig Sports Center)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs Shark
5 p.m.—Blu vs La Salle

FRONTRUNNERS Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation and ICTSI-La Salle resume their respective bids for the first finals slot as they tackle dangerous rivals today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Ateneo, solo leader with a 12-5 mark, meets Shark at 3 p.m., while second-running ICTSI-La Salle (11-6) battles Blu Sun Power at 5 p.m. The Eagles and the Archers are working hard to make the so-called Dream Duel a reality.

La Salle will emerge number one if it beats Blu today and Ateneo on June 12. Both the Green Archers and the Eagles will finish the semis with 13-6 cards, but La Salle will emerge number one due to a higher quotient.

Dennis U. Eroa

Cebuana Lhuillier get Mejia, Gamboa

THE CEBUANA Lhuillier Gems will no longer be dwarfed by opposing teams when the MBA National Conference begins on June 15. Coach Francis Rodriguez is making sure of that.

Rodriguez has taken in Willy Mejia, who played for the Pampanga Stars in the First Conference, and is keen on getting Allan Gamboa of the Coca-Cola Tigers. Both stand 6-foot-6.

"If I get these guys, then we can be truly competitive," said Rodriguez. "*Ilalaban ko talaga ito.*"

The Gems, bereft of a legitimate center, missed the finals of the First Conference though they bested the RCPI Negros Slashers, the eventual champions, in their closing assignment. *Roy Luarca*

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

It has come to the attention of Matsushita Electric Works, Ltd. (Japan) that the following models of **National switches and sockets with 125 volts and 15 amperes rating (the "Devices")** have been imported into the Philippines by unauthorized third parties:

Items	Model/Parts Number
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Sockets (with 125 volts, 15 amperes rating)	**WNF1001** **WNF1101** **WNF1302** **WNF1402** **WNF1512** **WNF4601**

The public is warned that these Devices were designated to be used in **OTHER countries with different standards and specifications.**

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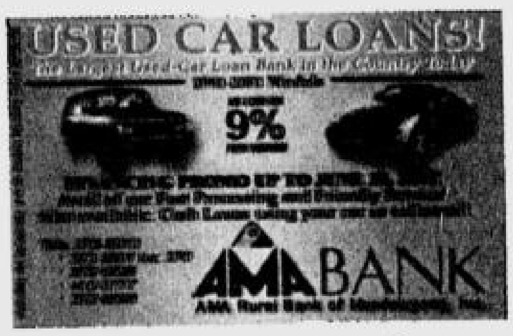
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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Lewis KOs Tyson /A22
Serena triumphs /A22
War Emblem fails /A23

Pacquiao still IBF champ

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines defended his International Boxing Federation junior featherweight title by stopping former world bantamweight champion Jorge Julio of Colombia in the second round.

Pacquiao rose to 34-2 with one drawn here Saturday with his 25th pro knockout when referee Bill Clancy halted the fight after 69 seconds of round two.

"I did not think it would be that easy," Pacquiao said. "The plan was to come out and let him feel my power early. I knew after the first knockdown that it was just a matter of time."

The Asian star jumped on Julio quickly, throwing a stunning left to the head and attacking the staggered South American with repeated left hands along the ropes until Clancy jumped between them.

"I can't complain about the stoppage," said Julio, who fell to 44-4. "I just got caught. I was not surprised by his aggression but I was surprised by his left hook.

"I couldn't get into the rhythm of the fight quick enough. But my biggest problem was he was a southpaw. I guess I have problems with lefties."

Pacquiao won the title 50 weeks ago by stopping champion Lehlohonolo Ledwaba of South Africa in the sixth round and kept it after a draw against Mexico's Agapito Sanchez last November. Pacquiao's goal is to unify the title and then move up to the featherweight division.

"I hope that now people will start to respect me a little more. I feel that I am a good fighter.

AFP

RENEE Marie Bibera of Region 7 shows her winning form in the discus throw (elementary division).
ROMY HOMILLADA

West Visayas stuns NCR

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NAGA CITY—Western Visayas pulled off a big endgame upset over the National Capital Region in the secondary division through its football team yesterday although NCR firmly secured its elementary title at the close of the Palarong Pambansa at the Metro Naga Sports Complex.

The WV booters were awarded 11 gold medals for thrashing Central Visayas, 3-0, yesterday to score a come-from-behind victory in the high school competitions with 58 golds, 19 silvers and 21 bronzes. It had slowly crept into the top spot with triumphs in track and field, swimming relays and volleyball late Saturday.

The NCR bets, who came up with a 52-36-20 count to become runners-up to WV, then formally annexed the elementary competitions title with 38 golds, 15 silvers and 17 bronzes, edging WV which could only post 32-13-36 despite a victory in the medal-rich elementary boy's football.

Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the Palaro and announced his plans to create a special project that will bankroll and monitor the training of selected winners in the Games.

"We want to create a higher-level program and create something that these young athletes can look forward to after dominating competitions in their level," said Buhain, who also took part in the turn-over of the Palaro flag to Rep. Bobby Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, the host of 2003 Games.

WV high school also got four gold medals from athletics and prevailed in girls' volleyball worth six golds yesterday to secure the title. Southern Tagalog placed third with a 23-31-14 count, while Southern Mindanao was far fourth with 11-14-13.

Western Visayas also wound up second in the elementary division, buoyed by its 2-1 win over Southern Mindanao in boys' football finals yesterday, relegating Southern Tagalog to third place with a 22-15-19 haul.

Both the elementary and high school football teams of Western Visayas were made up of the top players from Barotac Nuevo and Sta. Barbara, famous for their passion for football.

Paolo Martinez of Pila, Laguna capped Region 4's campaign with a record-breaking leap in the boys' secondary triple jump with a distance of 14.31 meters, besting the 14.11 mark of Celso Henry in Isabela in 1993. It was his third gold medal after capturing the long jump and high jump titles.

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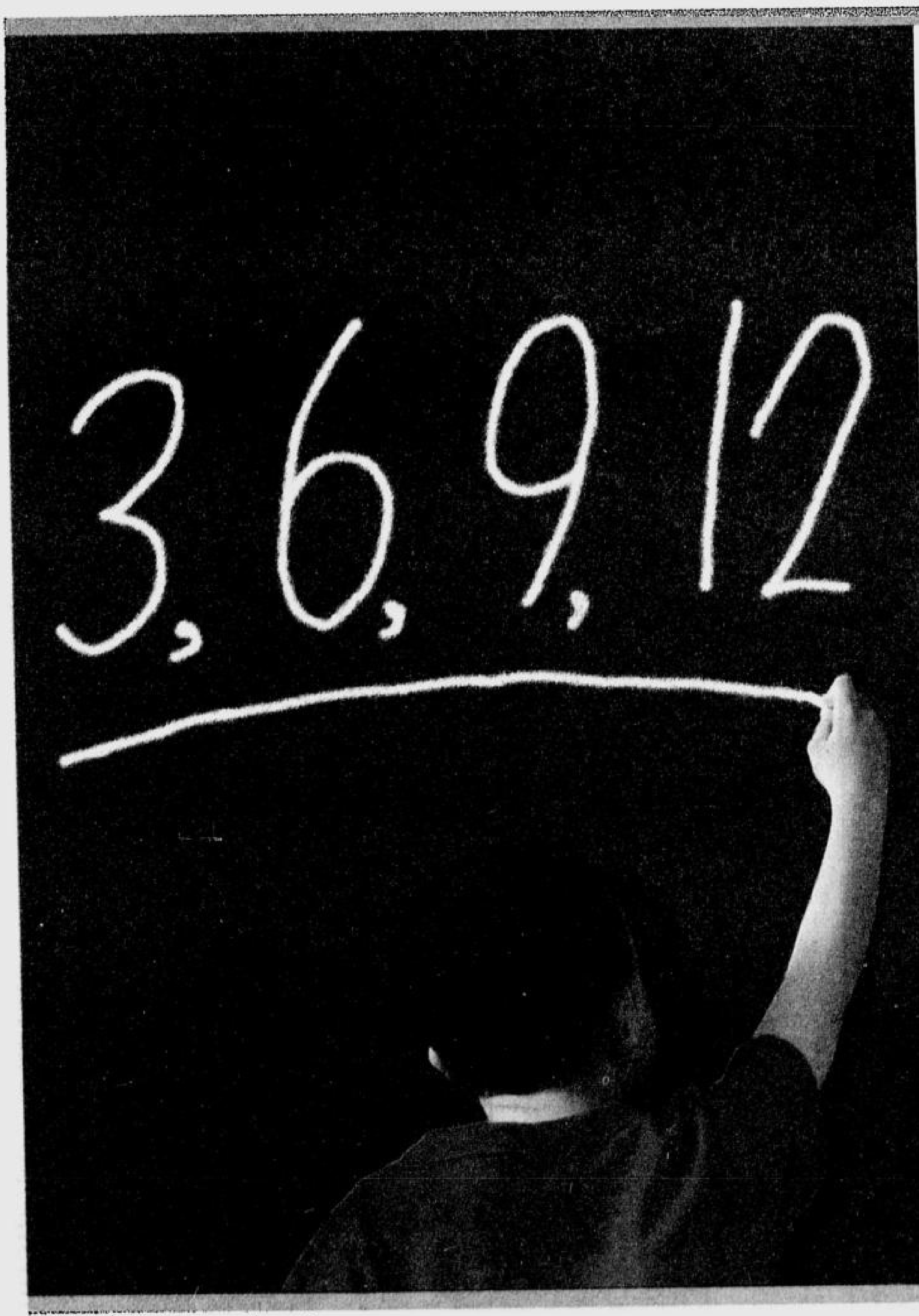

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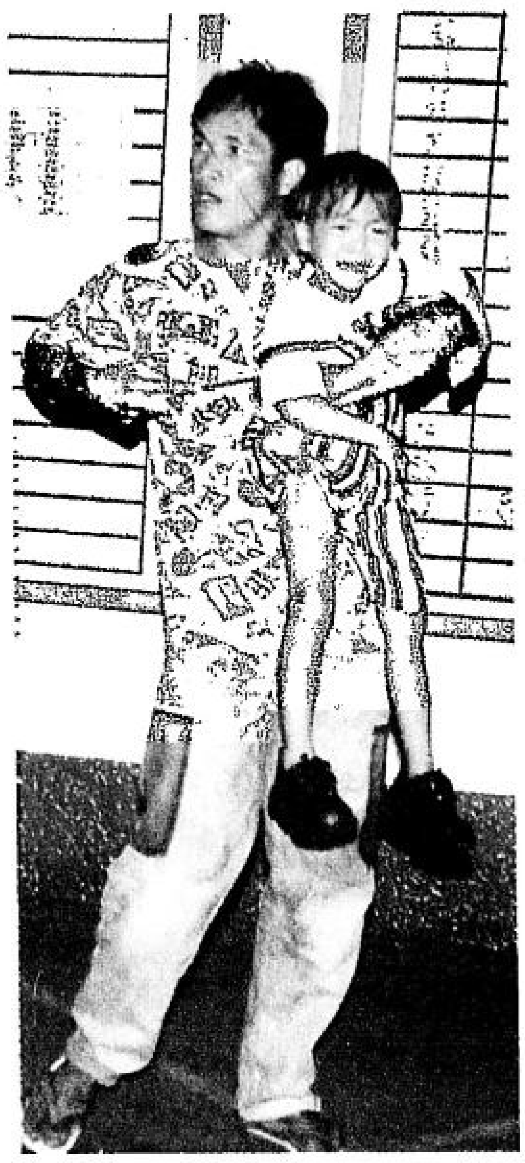
METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**



DEXTER Balala and his snatcher Diomedes Talvo before their death on May 31.

Dexter's burial turns into protest

/A26

'A little vacation' for Pasay cops

/A26

3 brothers hunted for MMDA man's slay

/A27

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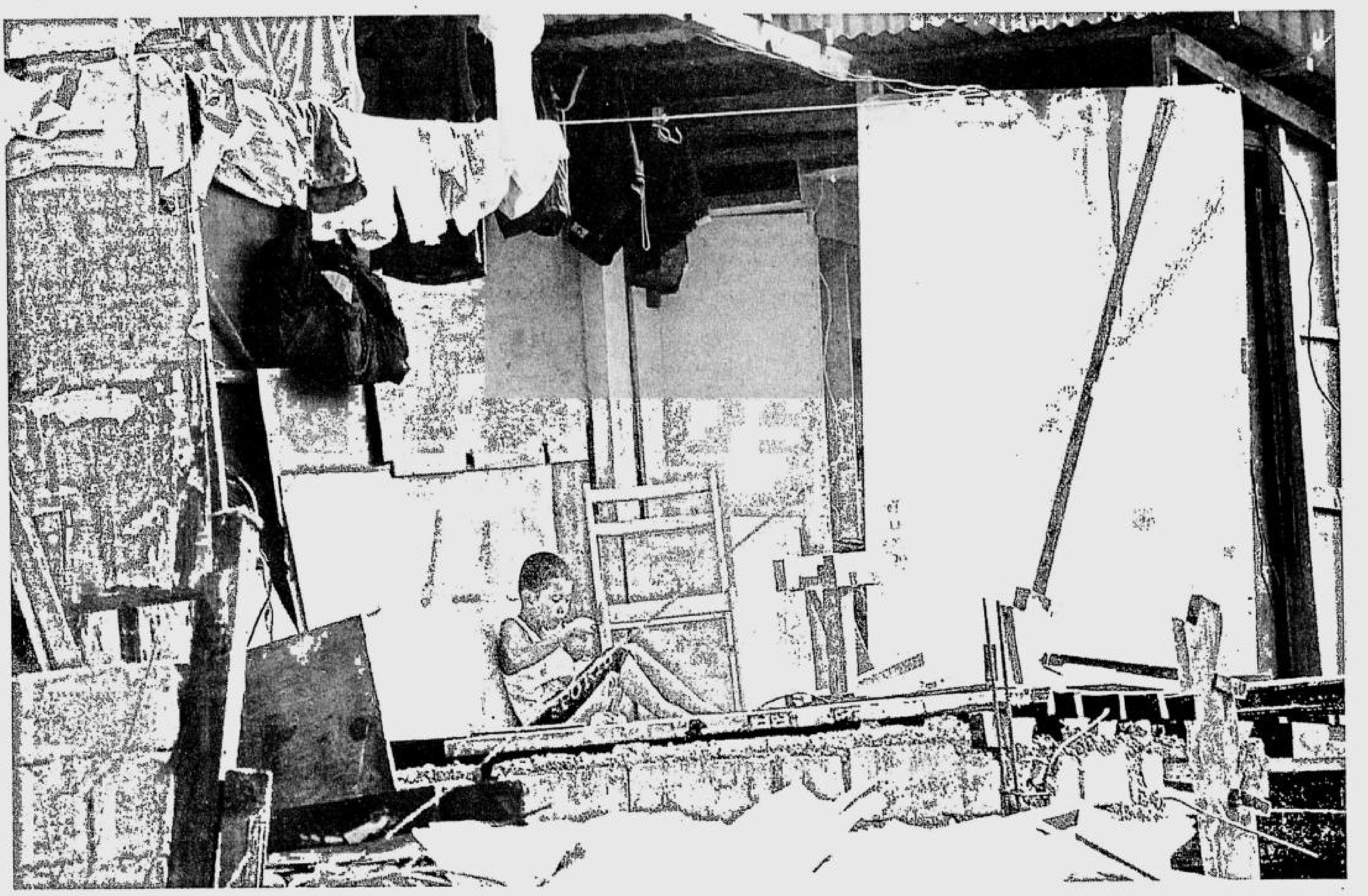

BREAKFAST ALFRESCO
Life has to go on for this young unidentified resident of one of the many shanties torn down by government demolition men on Zobel Roxas Street in San Andres, Manila to give way to a road project. After losing his shelter, he still has his clothes and his food, which he consumes in what is left of his former home.
ERIK ARAZAS

‘A little vacation’ for Pasay cops

By Alcuin Papa

MEMBERS of the Pasay City police might even get a little vacation while undergoing retraining in crisis management and hostage situations.

Southern Police District Director Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez yesterday told the INQUIRER that the chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, Deputy Dir. Gen. Edgar Aglipay, is thinking of holding the retraining of the 341 members of the Pasay police force in Subic.

“Maybe for a little vacation,” Gutierrez said. “That (the venue) is the last I heard from General Aglipay.”

But he did not say if the policemen would be allowed to hit the beach while they are in Subic. He said the reason for choosing Subic as venue of the 20-day refresher course by the PNP leadership was so no one could go home while the training was going on.

“We want all of them to stay there for the duration of the refresher course,” Gutierrez said. “No one will be allowed to go home so they can focus on the course.”

There will also be no intrigues if no one could go home during the retraining because the venue is far from home, he added.

The PNP reportedly has been considering a number of venues for the retraining, including Canlubang in Laguna, Bicutan in Taguig and the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame.

The Pasay City police has been the subject of severe criticism after its members failed to rescue four-year-old Dexter Balala, who was taken hostage by Diomedes Talvo last week at the Philtranco bus terminal in the city.

The incident left Balala and Talvo dead.

PNP Chief Director Gen. Leandro Mendoza then ordered the whole Pasay City police force to undergo a refresher course on crisis management and hostage situations.

Gutierrez said he wants the Pasay City policemen to finish the course as soon as possible so they can go back to their old posts.

“They know their area better than those who will relieve them while they are going through the course,” he said.

Gutierrez was also reacting to reports that wives of the Pasay City policemen had wanted to talk to him and other PNP officials to ask for an assurance that their husbands would get their old posts back.

“I can assure them that they will get their old posts after they attend the refresher course,” he declared.

Aglipay and other PNP officials are also set to meet with Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao “Peewee” Trinidad to talk about the city’s police force.

Pacquiao showed the world Pinoys can also shoot straight

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

MANNY Pacquiao got a strict warning: Be at your very best.

The only reigning Filipino world boxing champion was to face a two-time world bantamweight boxing title-holder who had never been knocked out in 47 fights.

Well, being the defending IBF super-bantamweight (122 lbs.) king, Pacquiao should’ve been favored over challenger Jorge Eliecer Julio of Colombia.

But, as reported by Today’s Nick Giongco, the only Manila-based sportswriter to attend Sunday’s grand affair in Memphis, the international media tried to underrate Pacquiao.

Foreign reporters pointed to Pacquiao’s long lay-off. He last boxed in November when he suffered a nasty head cut in eking out a controversial draw against bad boy Agapito Sanchez of the Dominican Republic.

Julio, on the other hand, had fought as recently as last April 25 when he outpointed Daryll Pinckney.

The international sports media in Memphis also described Julio as a very durable and classy boxer who does many things exceedingly well.

Nothing much was said about Pacquiao.

* * *

Now, the same group of doubting sportswriters appeared to be at a loss for words on how to describe Pacquiao’s sensational second-round demolition of his highly rated challenger.

The same foreign reporters, proudly suggested Nick Giongco from Memphis, must be swearing Pacquiao had overdone or surpassed himself.

The big banger from General Santos came ready and raring to box. He ended up having a feast. And the result was a hearty Sunday picnic for Filipino fans who either skipped regular chores or opted for an early lunch to watch the Pacquiao title fight.

So what if the bout was only an undercard to the Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson rumble by the river? To everybody here at home, it was the real main event, whose joyful impact and significance may not be equaled or surpassed in a long time.

* * *

For one thing, the Pacquiao victory was featured in what could go down as the richest, most widely viewed fight of the decade, if not of the century.

Pacquiao’s sharp, scientific, sensational knockout win must’ve also helped erase the suspicion that the Filipino cannot shoot straight.

The demolition job was a display of delightful precision.

Remember that bungled hostage rescue in Pasay City last week which must’ve sent the message that our cops back here don’t know how to use their guns?

Pacquiao’s scintillating triumph could help cure that sickening notion.

For one thing, the winner and still IBF super bantamweight king was a study in sharpness.

* * *

He jump-started and scored early. There were many punches. But the one that hit the jackpot, so to say, was a perfectly executed left straight that landed smack in the face.

It sent the challenger down on the seat of his pants.

For the record, it was not the standard left straight that our trainers and boxers see in local gyms. It’s what we can safely call imported stuff, straight from Freddie Roach’s Wildcard Gym around Hollywood.

The power did not come from the shoulder, but from deep down the navel area, the so-called seat of power.

It was perfectly timed, clinical in its precision. The punch was not slammed like a hammer, the way Pinoy sluggers do it. That jackpot left straight was thrown (make that read flicked) like a spear. Neat and perfect.

* * *

After smelling blood, Pacquiao lusted and lunged at Julio like a hyena lusting for fresh flesh. He ended up hammering and slapping his next punches.

There was unconcealed ferocity, but the result was enough to send the referee jumping in to signal a stop to the carnage.

A great finisher as all good champions should be, swooned the sportscaster.

Gov. Manny Piñol, feeling very proud, swore it’s a great day for the Filipino race.

There are many more Pacquiaos waiting out there to be discovered, Piñol explained, but the government must be able to mount a more productive talent discovery system.

Well, it might have escaped notice, but Pacquiao unwittingly ended up scoring a double knockout.

His other victim? No less than the hairless interpreter who gallantly stood to help tell the world how Pacquiao felt after the big win.

While the poor fellow tried to relay the Americanized questions to Pacquiao in Filipino, Pacquiao next retaliated in admirable English.

And the champ, our momentary saving grace, also did it with a straight, smiling face.

He said he wanted to unite the 122 lbs. division.

Pacquiao, by the way, is scheduled to return tonight.

Reporters need not worry. They could ask questions in English.

* * *

(PLEASE: Kindly pause and say a prayer for the recovery of our dear old friend Rudy Navarro, sports editor of Tempo, who suffered a stroke last week. He’s a seasoned, hard-hitting mainstay of the sportswriting fraternity.)

Dexter’s burial turns into protest

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Calls for justice rang out loud yesterday during the burial of Dexter Balala, the 4-year-old hostage who was killed during a bungled rescue attempt by Pasay City policemen on May 31.

In the funeral that became a protest rally, about 50 children, many of them Dexter’s playmates and cousins, wore white headbands with the words “Justice for Dexter!”

Several women carried red streamers also demanding justice for the boy, who was buried at the St. Joseph Cemetery in Barangay Sindalan.

At the Balala home in Barangay Quebiawan here, posters made from orange and white *cartolina* conveyed what the Balala family expects after the burial.

“*Hustisya para kay* Dexter (Justice for Dexter)!” read one poster. Another, tacked to the front of the Balala home in Barangay Quebiawan, this city’s village of poor migrants from Bicol, made a more haunting appeal: “*Ilan pang* Dexter *ang susunod? Maawa naman kayo* (How many more victims would come after Dexter? Have mercy)!

Balala would have been in kindergarten this school year.

“We only want justice,” his father Darius said in Filipino, as he and his wife Salvacion sat beside their son’s white coffin.

Two hours before the funeral Mass was held at 1:30 p.m., Salvacion refused to leave her son’s side and kept touching his coffin.

“It’s painful to lose a child,” Darius said.

He said Dexter had spoken of wanting to become a doctor or a policeman.

“I told him we are poor,” Darius said. “I myself did not even finish high school. I just do construction work and this is not regular. I assured him I would work hard so he could have a good education.

“*Pulis talaga ang nakapatay sa anak namin* (The policemen killed our son),” he stressed.

Salvacion said she believed her son did not die from the 13 stab wounds inflicted by hostage taker Diomedes Talvo.

“*Basta, bala ang nakapatay* (Bullets, not stab wounds, killed our son),” she said.

She said the only thing that should be established now is who fired the shots that killed Dexter, the policemen or security guards.

She expressed hope that the Southern Police District would “seriously pursue” the homicide charges filed on June 6 by Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, SPD chief, against 21 Pasay City policemen and eight security guards of Philtranco.

More than 500 people attended the funeral Mass for the boy. From Quebiawan to the cemetery, about 7 km away, hundreds of residents went out of their houses to watch the hearse pass by.

In the cemetery, about 2,000 people waited to see Balala put in his final resting place.

Chief Supt. Edgar Aglipay, National Capital Region police director, attended the Mass and the burial.

Aglipay said his presence was meant to “erase whatever bad feelings the Balala family has against the Philippine National Police.”

DEXTER’S BURIAL/ A27

Inquirer man loses phone to snatchers

PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer reporter Rocky Nazareno lost his P14,000 cellular phone to two snatchers in Malate, Manila, before dawn yesterday.

Nazareno, 37, lost his Nokia 6310 to two men who looked to be about 18 to 20 years old, said a report at the Western Police District-Theft and Robbery Section.

The two men grabbed Nazareno’s cell phone about 3 a.m. at the corner of Quirino Avenue and San Andres Street, the report said. ***Philip C. Tubeza***

Free urology clinic for men at PGH

THE DIVISION of Urology of the Philippine General Hospital, in cooperation with the Prostate Health Committee of the Philippine Urological Association and Pascual Laboratories Inc., is inviting all men 40 years old and above to attend a free clinic on Saturday, June 15, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The free clinic will be held at the UP-PGH Ward 2. There will be free consultations, free laboratory exams, and free medications for early patients, as well as lectures and a lay forum on prostate health.

Filmfest motorcade in Manila today

RESIDENTS of Manila and other movie fans will again have the opportunity to see their favorite movie stars in the flesh today during a city-wide motorcade featuring the stars of the six official entries in this year's Manila Film Festival.

The motorcade will start 1:30 p.m. beside the old Army and Navy Club (now Seafood Wharf Restaurant) near the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park.

Motorists are advised to skirt the motorcade route and take alternative routes to their destinations.

The motorcade will go north on Bonifacio Drive, Del Pan Bridge and Road 10, turn right on Moriones Street, left on Juan Luna, right on Tayuman, left on Abad Santos, right on Rizal Avenue and left on Aurora Boulevard extension.

From Aurora Boulevard extension, it will go straight to Dimasalang Bridge, turn left on Gov. Forbes Avenue, straight to the Nagtahan Skyway and Nagtahan Bridge, right on Zamora Street crossing Quirino Avenue extension, straight to Peñafrancia Street, left on Pedro Gil, right on Onyx, right on Diamante, straight to San Andres, right on Dart, left on Quirino Avenue, then straight to Roxas Boulevard where it will end.

Among the stars who will participate in the motorcade are Ara Mina and Rudy Fernandez of the film "Diskarte" by Maverick Films; Ruffa Mae Quinto, Marvin Agustin, Melanie Marquez and Troy Montero of "Super B Saves the Day" by Viva Films; Sharon Cuneta, Judy Ann Santos, Christopher de Leon and Dingdong Dantes of "Magkapatid" by Viva Films;

Elizabeth Oropesa, Jenine Desiderio, Richard Quan and Allen Dizon of "Mama San" by FLT Films; Joyce Jimenez, Piolo Pascual, Gloria Romero and Luis Gonzales of "I Think I'm in Love" by Regal Films; and Joel Torre, Jeffrey Quizon, Precious Valencia and Maricar de Mesa of "Utang ni Tatang" by World Arts Cinema.

"We are inviting everyone to watch the motorcade," Mayor Lito Atienza said in a statement.

He said the event is expected to be as successful as the Flores de Mayo with the Stars held last May 31 along Quirino Avenue, which drew an estimated crowd of 50,000.

Dexter's burial . . .

From page A26

He said the failed rescue was a "wake-up call" to the PNP.

In a visit here last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo had assured the Balala couple she would "do everything" to give justice to Dexter.

"We will work to have justice for Dexter," Darius said.

He said his son left a lesson to law enforcers. "The one question they must ask themselves is how they can really save people, especially children, when they are in (harm's way)," he said.

"*Walang katuturan ang kamatayan ng anak namin kung di matututo ang mga opisyal sa nangyari sa kanya* (My son's death would be in vain if authorities would not learn a lesson from what happened to him)," he added.

Diomedes Talvo, who had taken Balala hostage, will be buried today in his native town, San Mateo in Isabela province.

Talvo's relatives reiterated their call for forgiveness from Balala's family.

"We are again asking for their forgiveness so that our burden will be eased," Rosita Talvo, 69, mother of Diomedes, said in Ilocano.

She said she hopes the Balalas realized that Talvo did not mean to kill the boy and was forced to take him hostage because he was bothered by serious family problems.

She is also asking that her son be spared from blame and criticisms for Balala's death.

"Please let my son rest in peace," she said.

Lydia Ganotice, Talvo's common-law wife, said she and her three-year-old son Jonas will return to her home province of Kalinga after Talvo's burial.

"We would like to erase that sad part of our lives by remembering our happier times together," she said.

Talvo and his first wife, Florida Solis, had three children -Glaiza, 17; Lovely, 14, and Allan Rey, 11. The children are also hoping they would be living in peace after their father is buried.

With reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, May 11, 2002
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 18:23-28**
Gospel: **Jn 16:23-28**

Jesus said to his disciples, "When that day comes you will not ask me anything. Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my Name, he will give you. So far you have not asked in my Name; ask and receive that your joy may be full.

I taught you all this in veiled language, but the time is coming when I shall no longer speak in veiled language, but will tell you plainly of the Father.

When that day comes, you will ask in my Name and it will not be for me to ask the Father for you, for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and you believe that I came from the Father. As I came from the Father and have come into the world, so I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

Commentary

The seven weeks of Lent are incomplete without the seven weeks of Easter. Accompanying Jesus through John's selection of all the many things that Jesus did and said, we meditate again on the journey that brought him to Calvary, but this time we see it all the more clearly in the light of the resurrection. Jesus does not speak of dying but of "going to the Father". Through his terrible Passover our sorrow has been turned into joy, the limitations to the power of evil have been demonstrated and we stand with Christ in God's presence. When we pray with Jesus our prayer is his, opening us to all that God is dying to give us (literally!) With faith and simplicity, let's approach God in the company of Jesus and there discover what we really want to ask for.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Evident premeditation—The elements of evident premeditation must be established with equal certainty as the criminal act itself can be appreciated as a qualifying circumstance. These elements are: (1) the time when the accused determined to commit the crime; (2) an over act manifestly indicating that they clung to their determination to commit the crime; and (3) the sufficient lapse of time between the decision to commit the crime and the execution thereof to allow the accused to reflect upon the consequences of their act. The essence of evident premeditation is that the execution of the criminal act is preceded by cool thought and reflection upon the resolution to carry out the criminal intent within a space of time sufficient to arrive at a calm judgment. In the case at bar, there is no showing that the killing was the product of cool thought and reflection. There is absolutely no showing how and when the plan was hatched or how much time elapsed before the crime was carried out. Suffice it to state that without such evidence, mere presumptions and inferences, no matter how logical and probable, will not suffice. In other words, the evidence falls short of proving evident premeditation. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, People v. Nicholas, G. R. No. 142044, November 23, 2001]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

'Take us back, Caloocan'

By Tina Santos

RESIDENTS of two barangays, which were formerly parts of Caloocan City but which are now parts of Malabon City, have appealed to Caloocan Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo to take them back.

The residents of barangays 160 and 161 in Libis, Baesa said they have been plagued by various problems because of the land dispute between the two cities.

As a result, Malonzo urged the House of Representatives to amend Republic Act No. 9019. The law converted the municipality of Malabon into a city after it took control of the two barangays, which cover some 40 hectares.

Malonzo said he himself was wondering how the two barangays became parts of Malabon when they belonged to Caloocan since the beginning.

The mayor said that before the law was passed, a referendum should have been held to inform the residents that their place would become parts of Malabon.

He said he was surprised when he read Section 2 of RA 9019, authored by Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ricky Sandoval, which stated that the two barangays now belonged to Malabon.

According to Malonzo, residents of the two barangays strongly opposed being a part of Malabon because they are confused as to which city government should provide them their basic services.

Barangays 160 chair Nestor Ignacio Sr. said that the Caloocan City government has stopped collecting their garbage.

He said Malabon City, which was supposed to take care of their needs, has also neglected them, not collecting their garbage for more than a year now.

Malonzo explained that his government has stopped collecting the garbage in the two barangays because Malabon officials might accuse Caloocan of interceding in their affairs.

3 brothers hunted for MMDA man's slay

By Philip C. Tubeza

MANILA policemen are hunting down brothers Ramil, Zaldy and Jun Camaro for allegedly stabbing to death Metro Manila Development Authority employee Rosauro G. Bakian on Saturday night in Pandacan, Manila.

Investigators said Bakian, 45, of Kahilum 2, Pandacan, got mad at one of the brothers after he caught him talking to his wife Beabel, police said.

Bakian died from four stab wounds in the chest at the Ospital ng Maynila, said Detective Edgardo E. Ko of the Western Police District-homicide section.

Police said the brothers ganged up on Bakian about 9:30 p.m. on Saturday in front of the Camaro house, also in Kahilum 2.

Three weeks ago, Bakian sent out his wife to buy food at a nearby store, police said. When she was not back home after a few hours, Bakian looked for her in their neighborhood and found her "talking intimately with Ramil in a dark area," police said.

Ramil and the woman ran away when they saw Bakian coming, police said.

Bakian shouted "snatcher!" referring to Ramil, prompting bystanders to also run after Ramil and to beat him up, police said.

Ramil escaped, but he went to the barangay hall the next day to deny that he was having an affair with Bakian's wife, police said.

Ramil supposedly tried to settle his rift with Bakian, but he failed, police said.

On Saturday, Bakian came home from work drunk and hungry and asked his wife to buy coffee, but she did not return immediately, police said.

When Bakian again searched for her, he passed by the house of the Camaro brothers and he saw them drinking, police said.

Bakian and the Camaro brothers argued until the brothers ganged up on Bakian and stabbed him repeatedly, police said.

The Camaros fled while Bakian's nephew, Gary Flaviano, brought him to the Ospital ng Maynila where he died during treatment, police said.

Man who hacked 3 shot dead in Pasig

By Nelson F. Flores

POLICE shot dead a still unidentified man who went berserk and hacked three people in Pasig City early yesterday morning.

Two of the injured were identified as couple Antonino and Rodelita Marquez. They were treated for minor hack wounds at the Medical City Hospital in Mandaluyong City, police said. The other injured was identified only as Emma, who ran away after she was wounded in the head.

Police said that shortly after 6:30 a.m. in a crowded flea market along San Guillermo Street in Barangay Buting, the unidentified man suddenly started hacking people with a butcher's knife, hitting Emma first.

Supt. John Sosito, Pasig City police chief, said Emma managed to run away. The man with the knife turned his attention to the Marquez couple, he added.

Chief Insp. Angel Sumulong, a block commander of the Makati police and a friend of the Marquezes, tried to pacify the unidentified man. Sumulong was armed with a shotgun, police said.

During the struggle, the unidentified man and Marquez struck Sumulong's gun which went off, hitting the unidentified man and Marquez, Sosito said.

Sosito said the Marquez couple decided not to file any complaint against Sumulong.

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CHICOS Disco Theater will celebrate its 17th anniversary on June 11, with the search for Mr. Chicos 2002.

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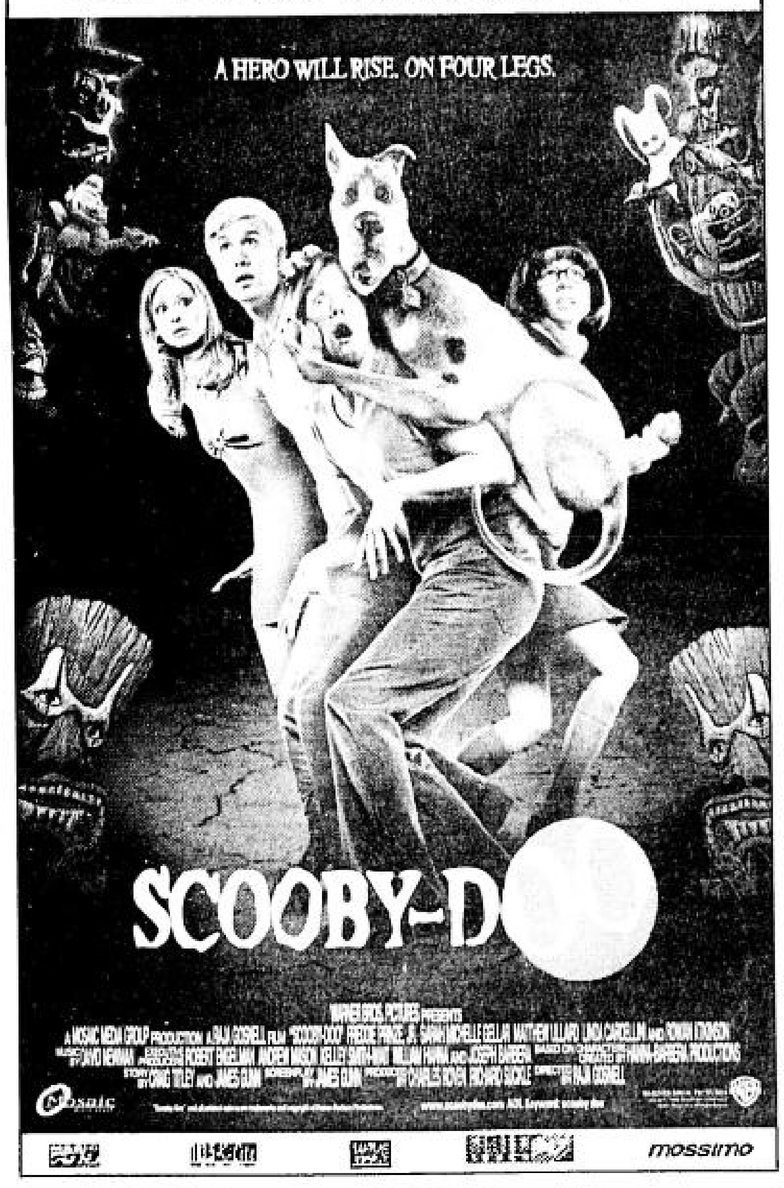
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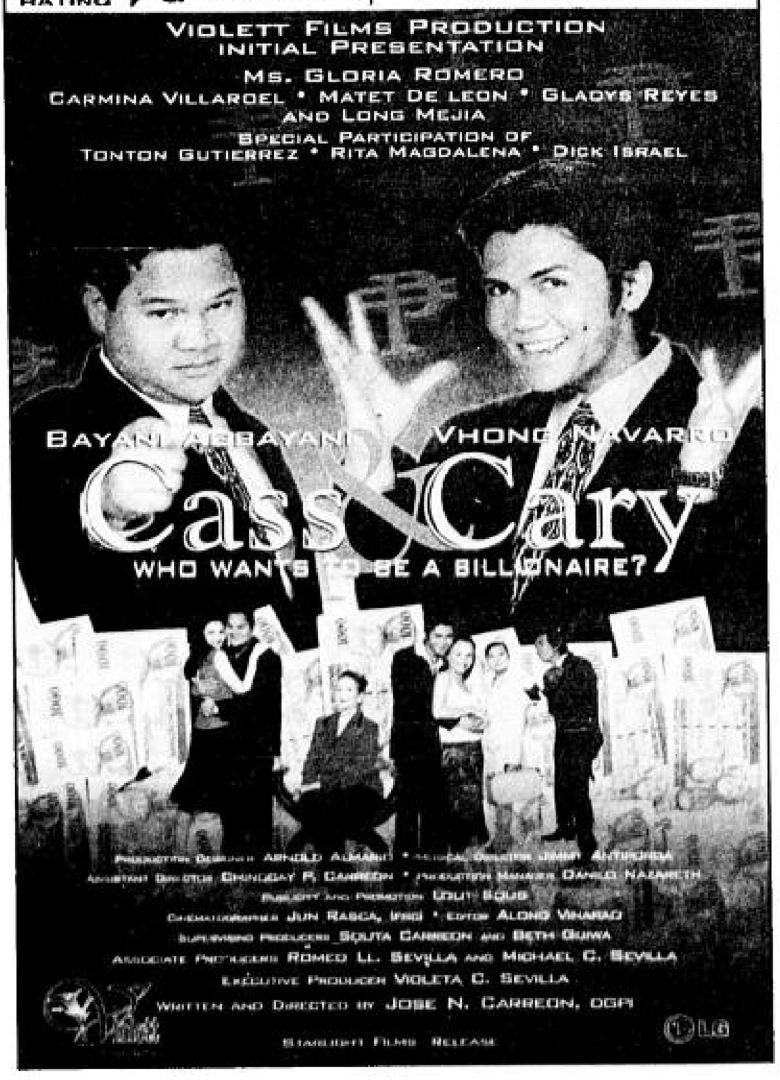
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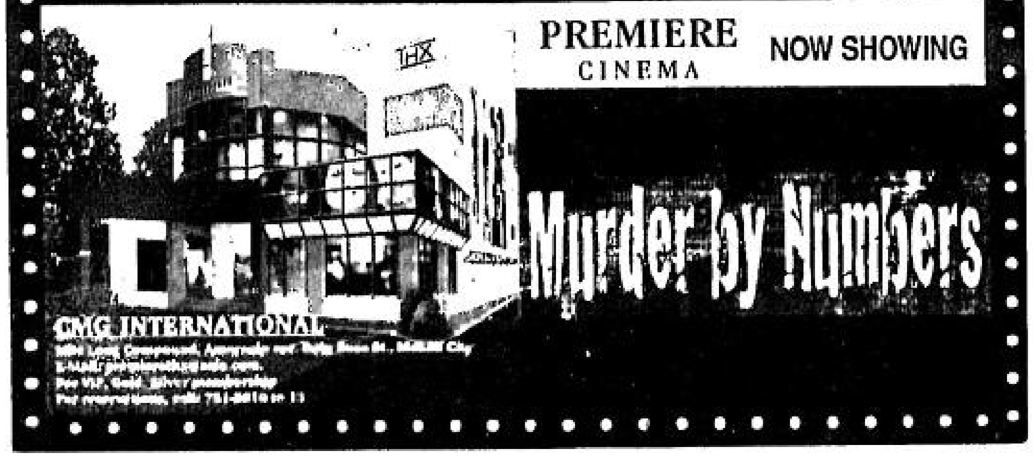

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Hard Rock Café presents special events

PARTY Animals and music lovers are in for a treat this rainy season as Hard Rock Café whips up an exciting line up of special events this month.

On June 21, it's non-stop dance party galore with Disco Mix Club (DMC) Philippines' Pink Episode, an all female group that will give the best of the hip-hop and R&B genres. The party begins from midnight onwards.

On June 19, Joey @ 92.3 will sponsor an '80s-rock inspired party with Rage Band, spearheaded by Pinoy rock icons Juan Miguel Salvador and Marissa Buñag.

"Literock" at Hard Rock features Real Groove on June 20.

Asia's Nightingale Lani Misalucha returns to HRC on June 22 via a solo concert.

It's "Rage Night" on June 28, with 99.5 RT's monthly all-out, no-holds barred party.

Side A closes the party series on June 29.

On regular nights, enjoy HRC's nightly band gigs. Big on Mondays, Rage Band on Tuesdays, First Circle and Route 70 (June 12 and 26) on Wednesdays, Prime Council back-to-back with Pido with Take One on Thursdays.

For reservations and more information, call Hard Rock Café at 893-4661 to 63.

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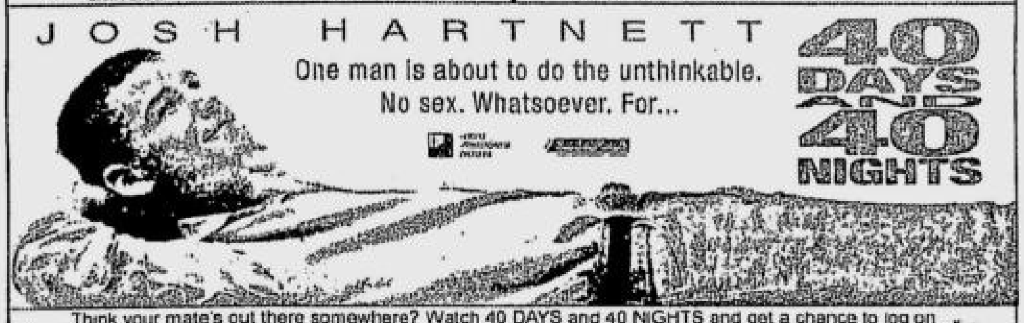
JOSH HARTNETT
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2ABC
3DEF
5JKL
MNO

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4. All accumulated scores will be totaled for weekly and overall races.
5. Employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc., Publicis-AMA Inc., Globe Telecom, Chikka.com, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not eligible for the promotion
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SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173888
1 DRAGONFLY
2 STAR WARS
3 A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 MURDER BY NUMBERS
5 RESIDENT EVIL
6 CASS & CARY
7 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 ·7161416
1 CASS & CARY
2 DRAGONFLY
3 MURDER BY NUMBERS
4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
5 A WALK TO REMEMBER
6 JIHAD WARRIOR
7 STAR WARS
8 PANIC ROOM
9 RESIDENT EVIL
10 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350740
1 DRAGONFLY
2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
3 JIHAD WARRIOR
4 STAR WARS
5 RESIDENT EVIL
6 CASS & CARY
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
9 SELDA
10 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
11 SPIDER-MAN
12 PANIC ROOM

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 STAR WARS
2 PANIC ROOM
3 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 MURDER BY NUMBERS
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8 SPIDER-MAN
9 CASS & CARY
10 DRAGONFLY
11 JIHAD WARRIOR
12 A WALK TO REMEMBER

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6 DRAGONFLY
7 PANIC ROOM
8 JIHAD WARRIOR
9 CASS & CARY
10 STAR WARS
11 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
12 SPIDER-MAN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 STAR WARS
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 CASS & CARY
5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6 DRAGONFLY
7 MURDER BY NUMBRS
8 A WALK TO REMEMBER
9 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 DRAGONFLY
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 MURDER BY NUMBERS
5 SELDA
6 PANIC ROOM
7 CASS & CARY
8 RESIDENT EVIL
9 STAR WARS
10 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

SM CITY CEBU
2313878
1 STAR WARS
2 JIHAD WARRIOR
3 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4 SNOW DOGS
5 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
6 FRUIT IS SWELLING
7 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8 CASS & CARY

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 BENEATH LOCHNESS
2 CLOSED
3 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4 JASON-X
5 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
7 CLOSED
8 STAR WARS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 JIHAD WARRIOR
3 DRAGONFLY
4 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
5 LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
6 CASS & CARY

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
3 A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 DRAGONFLY

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820964
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 MURDER BY NUMBERS
2 DRAGONFLY
3 CASS & CARY
4 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 JASON-X
2 HARDBALL
3 SNOW DOGS
4 BENEATH TO LOCHNESS
5 STAR WARS
6 CROSSROADS

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
1 MURDER BY NUMBERS
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
W/ LATE NIGHT SCREENING ON WEEKENDS 6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	CASS & CARY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RESIDENT EVIL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	DRAGONFLY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MURDER BY NUMBERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	WALK TO REMEMBER
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT / BEST FRIEND LOVERS
ODEON	MURDER BY NUMBERS
ODEON-2	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
ROBEN	SELDA
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	JOHN Q / BLACK HAWK
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
REMAR	SELDA
REMAR-2	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
B	CASS & CARY
C	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-2	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
CINEMA-3	SELDA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR
CINEMA-6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-7	AKALA MO
CINEMA-8	SPIDER-MAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
CINEMA-14	MURDER BY NUMBER
CINEMA-15	DRAGONFLY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-2	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-4	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-5	DRAGONFLY
CINEMA-6	A WALK TO REMEMBER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Close encounters of the hybrid kind

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

"Roswell"
RPN 9
Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

AT FIRST, the show comes off as a bastard child of two disparate shows, "The X-Files" and "Dawson's Creek." On closer examination, "Roswell" manages to pull off its own individuality, exploring themes of literal alienation and star-crossed romances.

For more than five decades, Roswell, New Mexico has been a hub for UFO chasers and alien hunters, as rumors prevailed regarding a flying saucer that crashed in its desert area in 1947. The US government has always insisted that it was only a weather balloon that lost control, but public speculation hinted at a massive cover-up.

The show proceeds from that premise, detailing that not only has an alien spacecraft crash-landed, its survivors have also secretly mingled with the human population as teeners.

Created by Jason Katims (and loosely inspired by the teen novels of Melinda Metz), "Roswell" examines displaced youths searching for their identities and the place where they belong.

ETs

Undiscovered in stasis chambers for many years, the "Royal Four," Max (Jason Behr), Isabel (Katherine Heigl), Michael (Brendan Fehr), and Tess (Emilie de Ravin) have emerged as small children in the mid-Eighties and unwitting local families adopted most of them. Seemingly normal, they have hidden their extraordinary powers (molecule alteration, healing ability, telekinesis, psychic manipulation, etc.) until they eventually cross paths with humans they have grown to trust: Liz (Shiri Appleby), Maria (Majandra Delfino), Alex (Colin Hanks), Kyle (Nick Wechsler) and Sheriff Valenti (William Sadler).

The four extra-terrestrials are actually "hybrids," their bodies an amalgamation of both human and alien physiologies. It turns out that the foursome perished in their previous alien incarnations and their essences were recreated in new adaptable bodies so they could eventuallly liberate their home planet from the interstellar war that destroyed them in the first place.

The primary relationship between Max and Liz gives way to the convenient pairings of the rest of the ensemble cast. Like almost every work of fiction that involves a love angle, several monkey wrenches are thrown in to break up the interplanetary union of Max and Liz: The revelation that Tess was Max's previous wife (which created a season-long triangle), the arrival of an older time-travelling Max (who declares that the future is doomed if present-day Max and Liz end up together), and so on.

These are creative scenarios, if a bit clichéd, but they work for the most part. The forbidden, cosmic Romeo and Juliet shtick can only be stretched so thinly for so long, though, and it can get predictable sometimes.

Polished

The show's science aspect can be quite hokey, as there are really no detailed explanations for their paranormal conditions. For example, the time-travelling Max successfully goes back to the past using an alien weapon in his first attempt. Not much information is revealed about this weapon, except that it's powerful and mustn't land in enemy hands.

But to the writers' credit, they do their darndest to exemplify cause and effect. For instance, one of the aliens can telepathically erase memories. A clue that a person has been "mind-worked" is his involuntary tapping of his fingers on an object. This is an important device in the story arc that ends Season Two.

Suspension of disbelief can also be used as an excuse in most of the "science fiction" aspects of the series. When Max and company use their superpowers, it just has to be accepted that they work, and they themselves don't know how that happens (except for the fact that it's from their unearthly heritage).

The polished special effects make it easier to swallow that the characters have flashy abilities.

The cast is competent enough. Behr as Max is the calm, innocent-faced leader of the Hybrid teens. He can really be intense when the scene calls for it. Appleby easily plays Liz as a demure and brainy (aren't they all?) girl-next-door. Fehr as Michael is solidly brash and insufferable. His interaction with Delfino's Maria make for some of the series' funniest moments.

Soap twist

The beautiful people that populate "Roswell" have drawn in casual viewers, the story becoming a backdrop for the charming and sexy thespians. But they act soundly as teens, although some of them don't look it. In reality, most of them are in their early to late twenties.

The stories are reminiscent of old superhero comic books, but with a TV soap twist. The characters are often forced to conform and hide their true selves because they and their loved ones can become targets of a shady government unit and other alien enemies (and they are).

The episodes are either hits or misses, although it's the build-up toward the climactic season-enders that makes the payoff worth it. When a character was killed off in Season Two, the mystery was craftily spread through a number of episodes, prompting more questions when the answers were presented.

Well, that's what the new season hopes to establish (where is it?) because the characters' status quo has been unsettled. The romance keeps a steady counterbalance to the fantasy elements. That vital equality easily brings in audiences of both genres.

Underneath the visual candy and mush, there's a good idea that works. It's neither groundbreaking nor new, but it's undeniably an otherworldly guilty pleasure.

Disney video releases 'Cinderella,' 'Hunchback' sequels

VIDEO

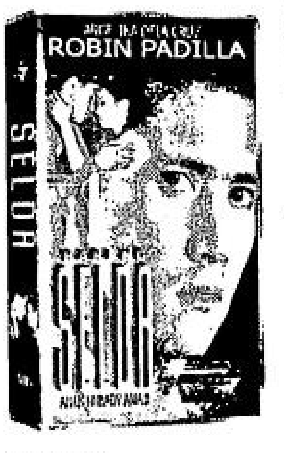
THE LONG wait for the sequel to the most popular fairytales in history is over.

Walt Disney brings back the captivating musical style, unforgettably colorful characters and brilliant animation in the continuation of Cinderella and Quasimodo's adventure.

After finding her destiny with the help of her fairy godmother, Cinderella's life was never the same again. Now that she is part of the royal family, Cinderella has to learn the ways of a princess and fulfill her duties as a monarch.

In "Cinderella 2," everybody's favorite princess is joined by her mouse friends and her ever-popular fairy godmother, as well as her stepsisters. It features four new songs.

Another Disney classic with a sequel on video is "Hunchback of Notre Dame 2," featuring the voices of Demi Moore, Tom Hulce and Kevin Kline.



PADILLA

"The Hunchback of Notre Dame 2" introduces new characters like Phoebus and Esmeralda's son Zephyr and Madellaine, voiced by Jennifer Love Hewitt who was so inspired by the film that she was able to write the song "Am Gonna Love You," which is included in the movie.

'Hari ng Selda'

FRESH from the silver screen, "Hari ng Selda" is now available on original video.

Starring Robin Padilla with Angelika de la Cruz, "Hari ng Selda" tackles the miserable life of prisoners while serving their sentence behind the cold walls of the National Penitentiary.

The movie was directed by Deo Fajardo, Robin's mentor who also directed other Robin Padilla starrers like "Utol Kong Hoodlum" and "Mga Batang City Jail."

Written by Robin Padilla, "Hari ng Selda" was released on original video three weeks after it was shown in theaters to fight the growing problem of piracy which is killing the entertainment industry.

"Hari ng Selda" is now available on VHS, VCD and DVD formats at popular prices in all leading video stores nationwide.

'The Land Girls'

C-INTERACTIVE Digital Entertainment released "The Land Girls," a touching story that happens all over the globe where conflict always occurs between love and duty.

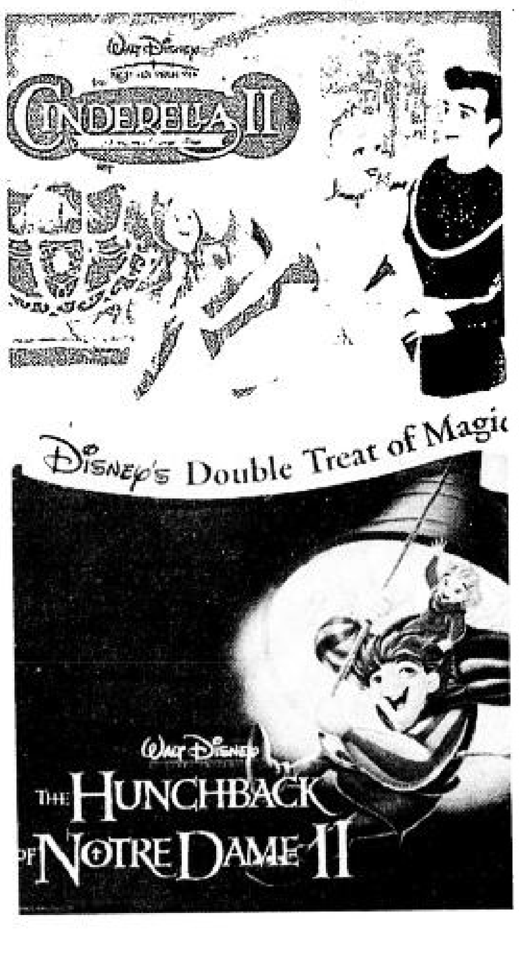
The movie topbills Rachelle Weisz, Catherine McCormack and Anna Friel.

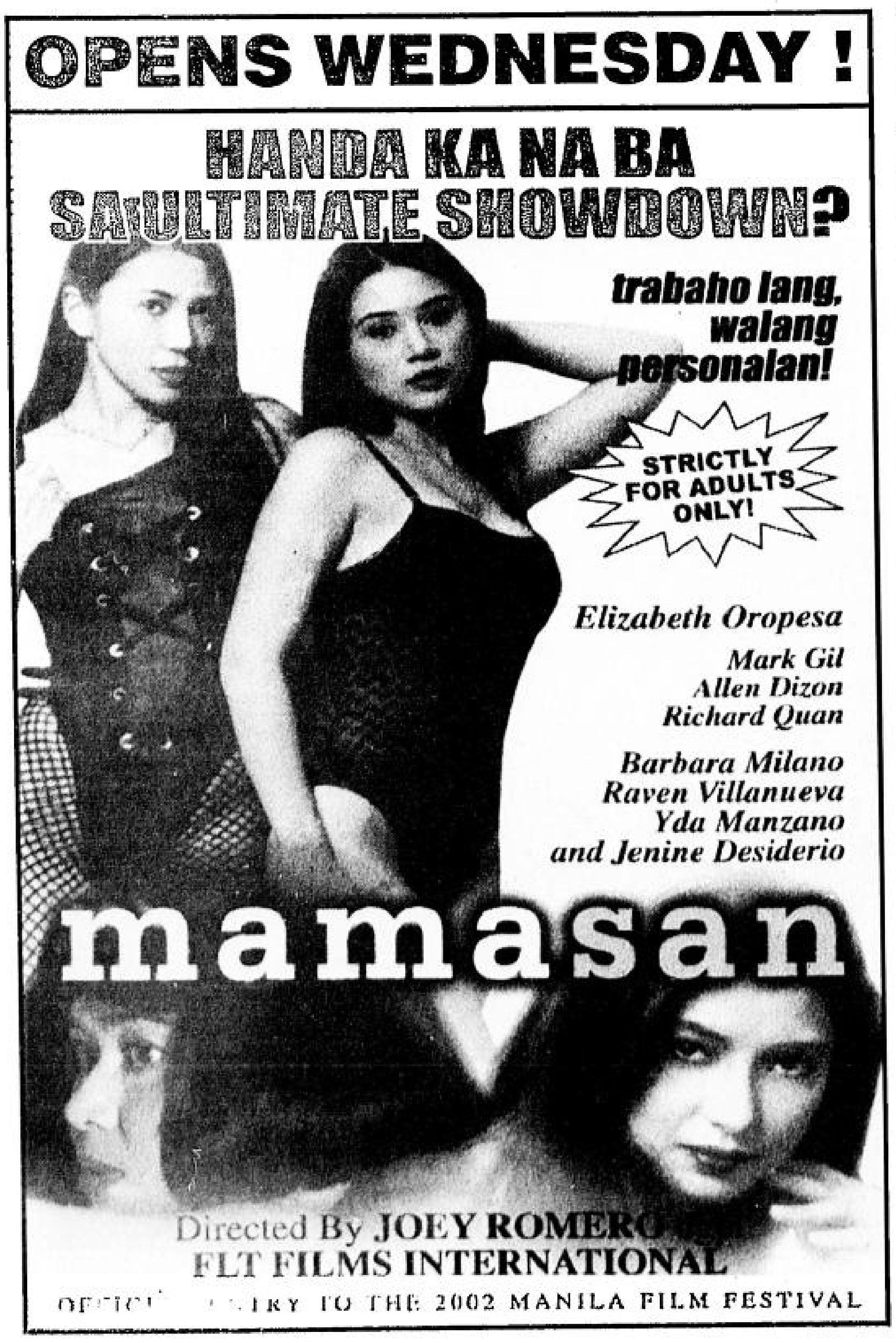
Three beautiful and young women from different background arrive at a remote farm while World War II continues to rage. For the women, the work is hard, the days are long and the war is never far from their thoughts. But their camaraderie strengthens them individually and as a unit.

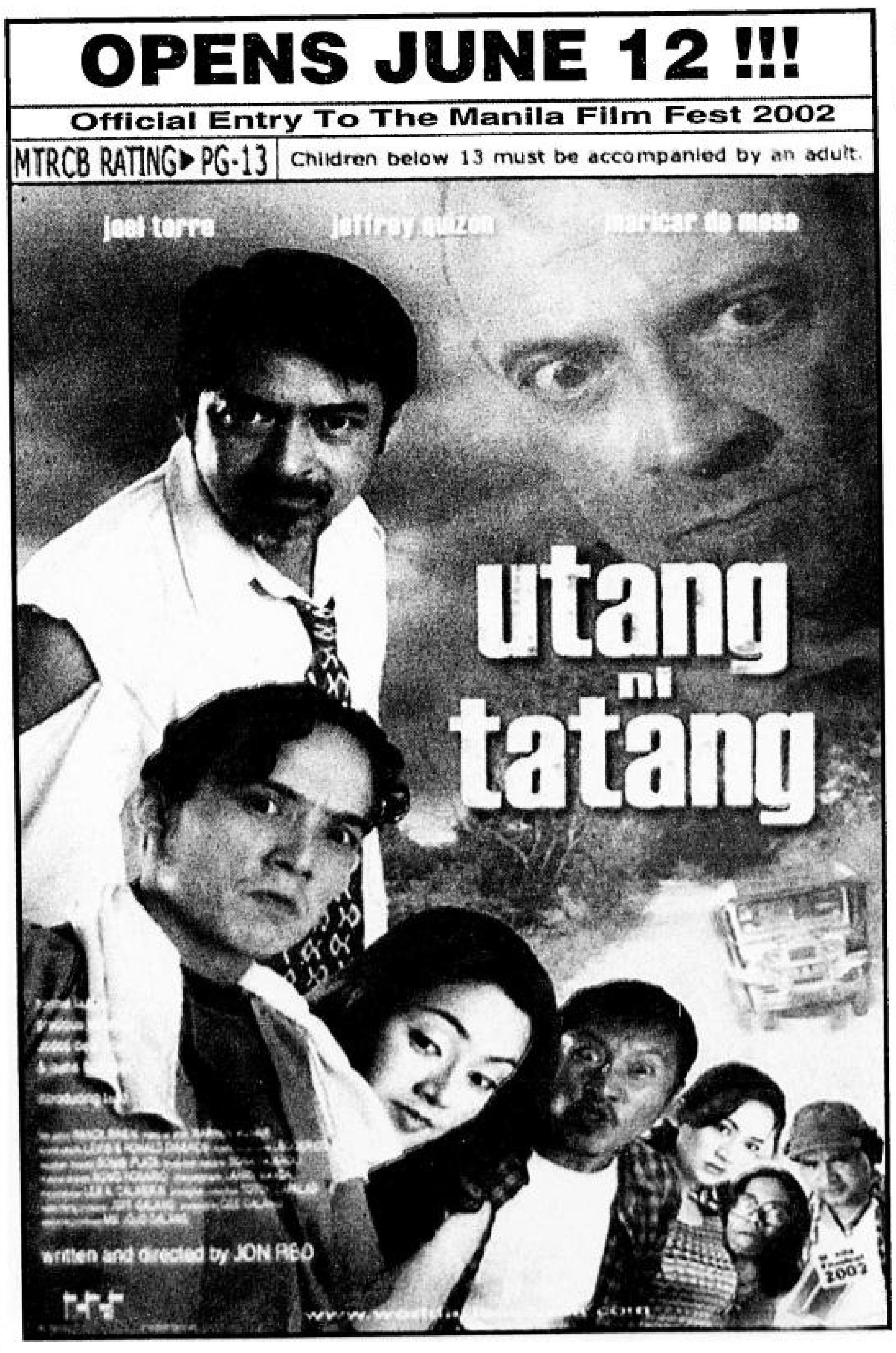
"The Land Girls" is now available on both VHS and VCD formats.

For original copies, visit Astrovision, SM Record Bars, Odyssey, O Music Video in Rockwell and Video City.

For inquiries, call 245-5011 to 12


Walt Disney
CINDERELLA II
Disney's Double Treat of Magic
Walt Disney
THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME II




OPENS JUNE 12 !!!
Official Entry To The Manila Film Fest 2002
MTRCB RATING▸PG-13
Children below 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
joel torre
jeffrey quizon
maricar de mesa
utang ni tatang
written and directed by JON RED

Chico . . .

From page A32

Discovery statement

AFTER Home Cable stopped airing Discovery Channel, many subscribers have been questioning the sudden cancellation.

Chris Wanden, head of affiliate sales of Discovery Network Asia (DNA), said in a press statement that DNA, the world's biggest producer of edutainment programs is disappointed at Home Cable's decision to discontinue broadcasting Discovery Channel.

"Home Cable advised us that they could no longer afford Discovery Channel and opted to discontinue the service," he said.

But he assured cable viewers that DNA will talk with the Home Cable management team to try and get Discovery Channel back on the TV screens of their subscribers.

Wanden said the recent Pan Asia Media study indicated that Discovery Channel ranks among the top three cable and satellite channels in the Philippines, following the movie channel HBO and the news channel CNN.

‘Opening Night’ extended at Onstage

NIEVERA

MARTIN Nievera’s concert series, “Opening Night,” has been extended for the whole month of June at Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati.

Martin performed to an SRO (standing room only) crowd every weekend last May. He did not only sing, he also made the audience laugh with his spiels.

Martin came up with never-before-seen production numbers such as the famous “Spiderman” kiss sequence and other exciting gimmicks, with audience participation.

Then, there’s the interesting interview portion inspired by his late-night TV talk show where he got the chance to chat and sing with celebrity guests such as Lani Misalucha, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Jaya, Vina Morales, Kyla and even Boy Abunda.

This month, expect Martin to keep weekends fun and totally amazing. There are more surprises to look forward to.

Catch the extended performances on June 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29 at Onstage, Greenbelt Mall in Makati.

Tickets at P600, P900 and P1,200 (plus 3 percent ticketron service charge) are now available at all Ticketworld outlets in major National Bookstore branches (891-5610), Maxi-Media office (551-7777 or 551-8999), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang) and Onstage Greenbelt Ticketron.

“Opening Night: Martin Nievera Back! Onstage” is a production of Big Mouth International for Maxi-Media International.

The concert series is presented by Smart Simply Amazing, Rexona Mini-Stick, Sulit and Samsung SGHT-100 True I, with Sustagen Premium, Clusivol, Beam Toothpaste and Farlin Baby Care Products.

OPENS JUNE 12 !
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
Manila Filmfest 2002 Official Entry Manila Film Festival 2002
ANG PINAKABAGONG HEARTTHROB IN SEARCH FOR A PERFECT MATCH
JOYCE I THINK I’M IN LOVE PIOLO
Directed by MARYO J. DELOS REYES
GLORIA ROMERO LUIS GONZALES
ROSELLE NAVA JAM MELENDEZ STEFANO MORI LORENZO MARA MICHELLE BAYLE NANCY CASTIGLIONE
sari-sari stone
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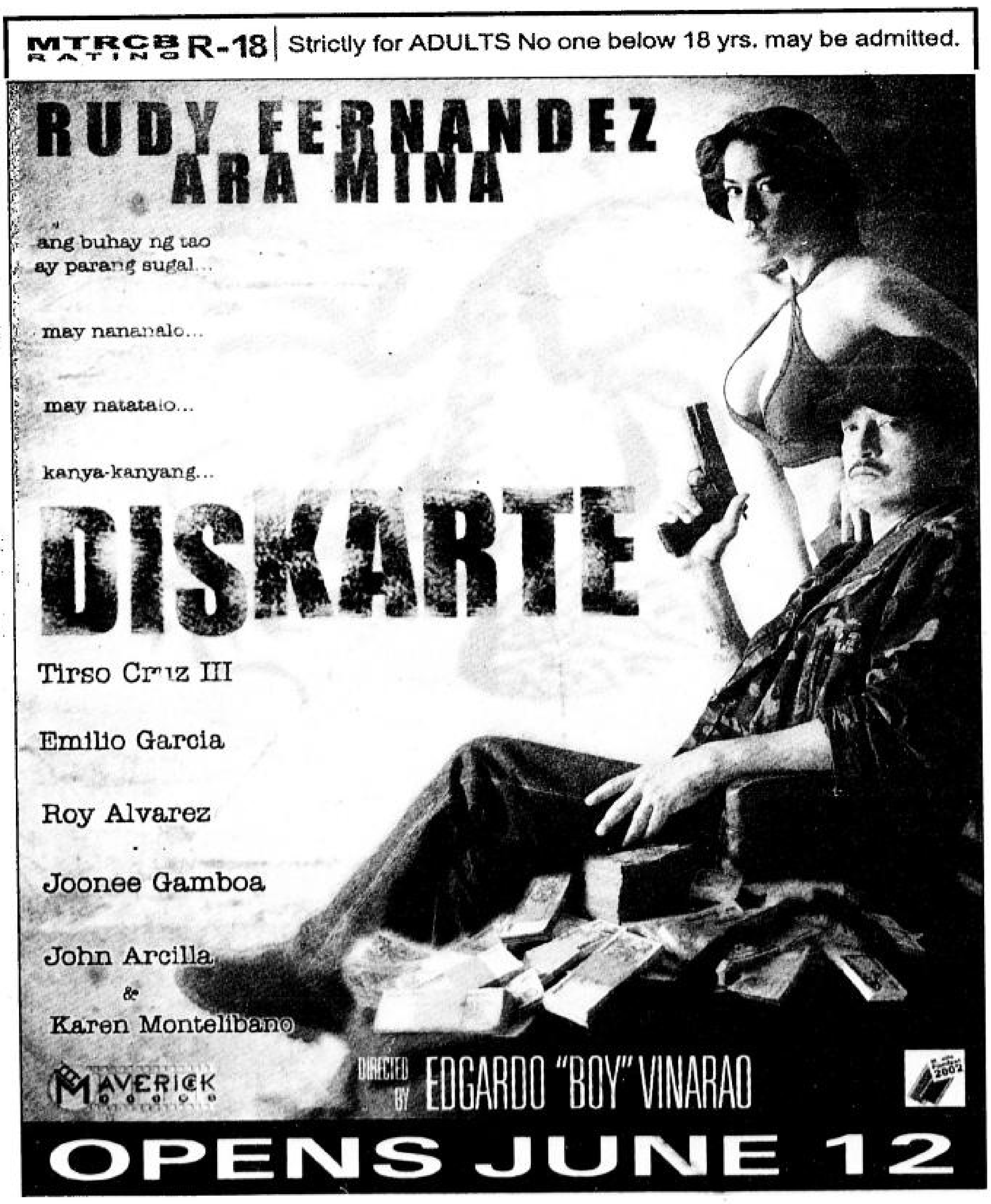
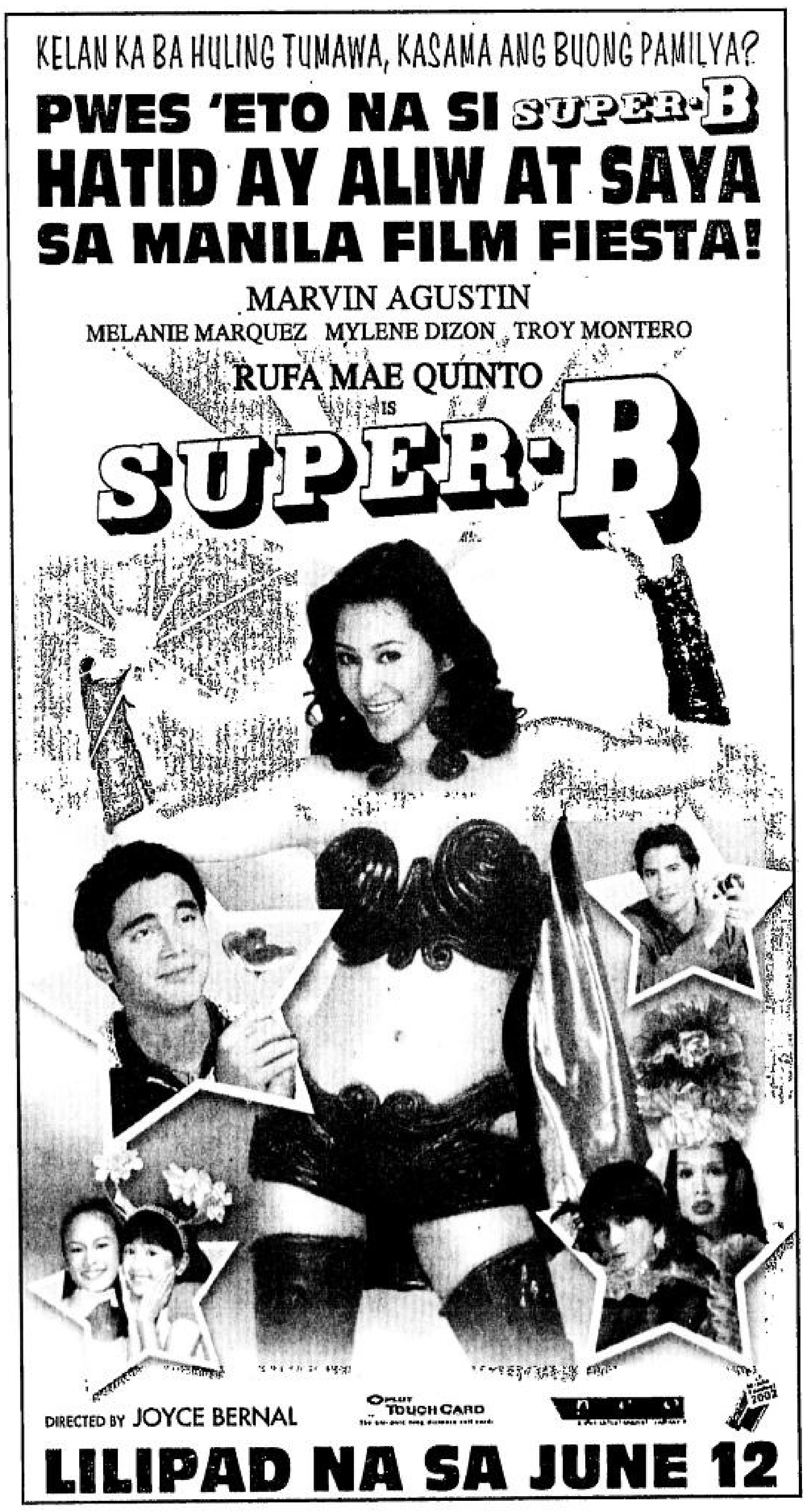
TALK 'N TEXT
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. PRESENTATION
PREMIERE NIGHT ON JUNE 11 AT ROBINSON’S ERMITA CINEMA 6



MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
RUDY FERNANDEZ
ARA MINA
ang buhay ng tao
ay parang sugal...
may nananalo...
may natatalo...
kanya-kanyang...
DISKARTE
Tirso Cruz III
Emilio Garcia
Roy Alvarez
Joonee Gamboa
John Arcilla
&
Karen Montelibano
MAVERICK
DIRECTED BY EDGARDO “BOY” VINARAO
OPENS JUNE 12

MTRCB RATING GP GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED
APAT NA BIGATING PANGALAN
ISANG PELIKULANG ’DI MALILIMUTAN
CHRISTOPHER DE LEON DINGDONG DANTES
SHARON CUNETA JUDY ANN SANTOS
MAGKAPATID
DIRECTED BY JOEL LAMANGAN
DUNKIN DONUTS
FUJIFILM
VIVA FILMS A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
OPENS JUNE 12 MANILA FILM FESTIVAL



KELAN KA BA HULING TUMAWA, KASAMA ANG BUONG PAMILYA?
PWES ’ETO NA SI SUPER-B
HATID AY ALIW AT SAYA
SA MANILA FILM FIESTA!
MARVIN AGUSTIN
MELANIE MARQUEZ MYLENE DIZON TROY MONTERO
RUFA MAE QUINTO IS
SUPER-B
DIRECTED BY JOYCE BERNAL
TOUCH CARD
LILIPAD NA SA JUNE 12

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Moving on and loving again

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I WAS taping "Smart Ka Na Ba?" when I got two nice surprises from *Kuya* Dick (**Roderick Paulate**).

As soon as I got to the set, he told me that his mom made me her special, authentic Bicolano *laing*. In ABS-CBN, Mama Paulate's cooking is legendary, and I must say her *laing* is the best I've ever tasted.

Kuya Dick's a sweetheart, and in our studios there are very few secrets. He knew I was feeling low. I guess dressing rooms have eyes and ears, so he was aware that my tear ducts were hyperactive. During dinner break in between episodes, I got a gigantic floral arrangement in a beautiful terra-cotta vase. His card held so much meaning for me because it was the ray of hope that I needed. *Kuya* Dick simply wrote, "I just want to remind you that sad times do pass, and I'm here until they do. I love you, baby!"

Fortunate

On my two programs where I have cohosts, I've been so fortunate to work not only with the best in their fields but also the most caring human beings possible. Thursday night it was the turn of my "The Buzz" soul mate, **Boy Abunda**, to surprise me on my "Game KNB" set with our favorite, the decadently delicious caviar pie.

Boy knows how much I love seeing him wearing shirts I buy for him, and he came wearing my Versace *balato* for him from my latest commercial paycheck. He knew I needed a hug and some listening therapy. And he stayed until I packed up 3 a.m., just being a true and dependable friend.

Boy felt just by the look in my eyes that my heart was badly bruised, so the next day he was again on my Smart set to check up on me, regardless of how hectic his own schedule was. I haven't been the luckiest girl when it comes to falling in love, but I'm the most blessed when it comes to having unbeatably supportive workmates who also happen to be loyal, compassionate friends.

'Hindi pa pala ikaw'

After *Kuya* Dick's flowers, my road manager **Ronald** arrived with an advanced copy of **Pops Fernandez**'s latest CD released by Viva Records and produced by Pop Art. The CD is called "Pops: The Way I Feel Inside."

Her dedication read: "To my dearest friend, Kris, Songs from my heart that I know you'll be able to relate to also. I'll always be here for you no matter what. Love you, girl! Pops"

Pops was correct. At present I strongly identify with her first cut, the **Moy Ortiz-Edith Gallardo** piece, "Hindi Pala Ikaw."

In many of my previous columns I've extolled Moy and Edith, and now they've written a song that's perfectly suited to Pops' voice and our emotional experiences.

We've all gone through the realization that someone we have loved deeply still isn't the one who'll last and be our last. Circumstances vary individually, and we face different relationship obstacles, but at the core we all share the same pain and heartache that come with accepting the truth that parting ways is inevitable. We must pick up the broken pieces, re-build from within, stop asking the unanswerable hows and whys, try to move on as best we can, and eventually have the courage to try loving again.

Here are my favorite lyrics from "Hindi Pala Ikaw."

Hindi pa pala ikaw ang para sa akin
'Pag nagtanong sila, ano'ng aking sasabihin
Hindi ko maisip, 'di ko akalain
Hindi pa pala ikaw ang para sa akin
Akala ko noon ikaw na at ako
Nakalimutan ko pala lahat ay nagbabago
Pagdating ng tag-ulan baka wala ka na
Pagdating ng tag-araw 'di na ikaw ang kasama
Ang pagmamahalan, akala ko'y matibay
Bakit kaya ngayon, tayo ay naghihiwalay?
Hindi pa pala ikaw ang para sa akin
Kung sino man siya minsan ko pang hahanapin
Kung aalis ka na, hindi kita pipigilin
Hindi pa pala ikaw ang para sa akin
Paalam na mahal, masakit man sa akin
Hindi pa pala ikaw ang para sa akin.

Friends, especially those who have been around through the many chapters of your life, know when you need them most, even without your uttering a word. **Zsa Zsa Padilla** appeared out of the blue also during my Smart taping. She made the out-of-the-way detour to ABS-CBN just to be with me even for just an hour.

She said it best when she said, "Krisie, some men are really just meant to be transitory relationships, but best friends will still be here long after they're just a memory. And best friends will always be here to help you up when you've taken a bad fall and hold your hand while you try to find your feet."

My pink watch

Let me close this piece by relating a story about my favorite pink watch.

My manager **Deo** and I were in Page One at Rockwell after I'd hosted an ABS-CBN awarding ceremony sometime in November last year. It was a weird twist of fate because on that night I nearly came face to face with someone I've always considered my first love. It happened to be his birthday and he was at the mall with his family. When I saw him, we hastily paid for our purchases and left the store. I was literally shaking while walking out to my car. Deo saw the tears stream down my face, uncontrollable, even nearly two years after, but he chose not to comment.

That night I cried myself to sleep because the birthday guy was now okay. He was seemingly whole again, and he had the family life that for a brief moment in time I thought we were destined to share because our paths did cross again and I had allowed myself to believe that our second chance was all we had needed to live happily ever after.

What I'd seen that night was a painful reality check because it extinguished my last embers of hope.

The next day, during my Game KNB taping, I got to my dressing room to see a solitary, black Technomarine package waiting for me. It was from Deo and his card read, "How I wish the love we all feel for you would be sufficient to ease your hurt. If only it was the same love you've been longing for in your life. In time, the right man will come into your life, Kris. Use this to keep track of the time because it won't take long for someone truly meant for you to discover just how special you are and love you even more than we do."

Getting over it

Today, I wore the pink watch again after several months of having forgotten about it, because I mistakenly thought "the time" had come. Everytime I looked at the watch, I was reminded that I did get over my past heartache, and surviving the heartache eventually helped me to find the strength to move on.

The days did eventually pass without me thinking of him, even if I read some news about him. The bitterness evaporated to the point where I sincerely rejoiced when I read about his latest victory because I knew just how important it would be in capping his career. And I did manage to at last stop dwelling on what I wasn't given. I was finally grateful for all I had in exchange.

And now I do know that in time, I'll manage to move on, just as I've done in the past. It may be just a bit harder now, because my heart being a bit older is no longer quite as resilient.

Until then, I'm keeping the pink watch on my wrist because it strengthens my faith that in time, the right man will come. And for him, I'll finally be the right woman.

From Leo to Tobey

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN "Titanic" broke box-office records in 1997, it made a young superstar of its male lead, **Leonardo Di Caprio**. After that great success, he could do no wrong as far as Hollywood producers were concerned.

They offered him the best movie projects in town, the biggest and most challenging roles, astronomical talent fees, and all the perks they could afford. They knew darn well that, if Leo's name was attached to their project, they could get huge financing and superior marketing possibilities, as well as first choice of theater circuits once their movie had been put in the can.

That's why, for instance, producers who had promised a role to another young actor quickly eased the actor out of the done deal, once Leo expressed interest in the part.

Ironically, he lost interest, soon after, forcing the producers to eat humble pie and beg the other actor to take on the part again. With sweet magnanimity, he did.

Meanwhile, Leo chose to do "The Beach," which took him all the way to Thailand. The movie was not a hit, so the young superstar's stock dipped somewhat. But he remained on top of the film heap, and continued to be wooed with the best movie projects.

Unfortunately, he began to devote more of his time to personal carousing, with more than his share of groupies and hangers-on at his beck and call.

Then came the "Spider-Man" project, and its producers' decision to award the title role to the relatively unheralded **Tobey Maguire**. When the movie was finally shown some weeks ago, it became a huge blockbuster in its own right.

As a result, Tobey became the hottest young film draw of the year, and more people began to forget about Leo's own cinematic triumph, less than five years ago.

How sad to see that Leonardo Di Caprio has eroded his enormous thespic capital in only four years. Will Tobey Maguire do the same? Not likely, since he's a better-grounded actor and star than Leo, thanks to his years of apprenticeship in small but challenging films.

It's true that Leo also cut his teeth on budget but quality productions, but "Titanic" was such a huge hit that he was seduced into focusing on the perks of stardom rather than on the essence of acting, in his new starrers.

Tobey won't be as susceptible because "Spider-Man" isn't as huge a hit globally as "Titanic." Besides, Tobey is more mature in outlook than Leo. He may portray a high-school senior in "Spider-Man," but he isn't the callow young nerd he plays, and is in fact a driven artist, determined to push his thespic skills to the limit.

But there's no denying that he's also become a hot, young superstar, so he should make good use of his newly acquired clout with producers and at the box office, to push for the production of small but worthwhile projects.

What Leo tried to do but failed, Tobey should continue with, to help raise the level and variety of filmmaking on the world scene.

Seventh season

THE SEVENTH season of "Friends" is now airing every 7:30 and 11:30 p.m. on Star World, five nights a week. The major plotline this season revolves around the upcoming nuptials of Chandler and Monica, and is fraught with pre-wedding problems.

For instance, what will happen when Monica discovers that her parents have spent her wedding fund? and, will Joey be ordained a minister.

But the season's biggest plot twist occurs when a positive pregnancy test is discovered in the garbage at the wedding. The question is, is it Monica?

"Friends" stars **Jennifer Aniston, Courtney Cox Arquette, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry** and **David Schwimmer**. To make the new season more eventful, guest stars have been tapped to appear in a number of episodes.

Feedback

FROM **Victor M. Andaya** of Cavite City: "Your articles on outstanding Filipino movies have gotten me interested in seeing them. Where can we get copies of them?"

NUT: Sampaguita Pictures has been putting many of its old classics on tape, so you could visit or call the Sampaguita Archives.

We hear that LVN Pictures is also coming out with a limited series of its films by outstanding directors, like **Gerry de Leon**.

Also, the CCP Film division and the UP Film Center have copies of some outstanding old films that you may be interested in.

Finally, the video shops at Virra Mall have some Filipino titles. And TV movie channels that screen old Filipino films occasionally come up with good offerings. Film buffs in this country have to pursue different leads in their quest for our movie industry's classics.

Soon enough, we hope, producers will realize that there's a good market out there for tape copies of exceptional old films, and pool their resources together. That way, film buffs will have a less difficult time gaining access to the best that our cinematic patrimony has to offer.

Robert Altman directs TV spots for E! Channel

E! Entertainment TV mounts a new promotions campaign with Golden Globe-winning director Robert Altman directing the TV promos for E!

E! Philippines will air five new Altman-directed spots starring Dustin Hoffman, Minnie Driver, Vhing Rhames, Lisa Kudrow and Erick McCormack.

The 30-second promos will pay homage to classic moments in movie history, featuring the stars in everyday settings re-enacting famous scenes.

Hoffman will recite lines from "The Graduate," while staring at himself in a bathroom mirror and pulling back his facial skin to make himself look younger.

McCormack will deliver lines from "The Godfather's" Don Corleone, as he prepares dinner in his kitchen.

Driver will play Hannibal Lecter in a scene from "Silence of the Lambs."

Rhames will do his best Bobby De Niro for a scene from "Taxi Driver."

"We're thrilled to be working with Robert Altman and top Hollywood celebrities on this inventive image campaign," E! president Mindy Herman said in a statement.

"The campaign further secures our position as the leader in the entertainment genre on TV, as well as spotlights our unprecedented inside and in-depth access to the top names in the industry."

The TV spots are said to be Altman's first commercial work in the United States (he directed a European spot last year).

The legendary film director's film, "Gosford Park," earned seven nominations in the recent Academy awards, including best picture and best director.

E! Philippines, which airs the TV promos this month, can be seen on UHF Channel 31, Channel 64 on SkyCable, Channel 58 on Home, Channel 11 on Destiny and Channel 14 on Dream.

PRETTY BARTENDER. Giselle Tongi at work in a New York night spot.

Chico and Delamar back where they started

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

CHICO and **Delamar**, the popular morning radio duo who left Monster Radio RX 93.1 and moved to dwKC-FM in 1999, will return to the station where they started.

On June 17, Chico and Delamar will be heard again on Monster Radio, where their morning tandem was born in 1996.

Chito Barreiro and his lovely wife **Chingay** (who claims she's "sexy" now), the couple behind Audio-Visual Communications which runs Monster Radio, confirmed this last Saturday, two days after they signed up Chico and Delamar (again).

Chito said the pair's contract with KC-FM expired last May 15. KC decided to change its format and do away with the deejays, so Chico and Delamar's contract was no longer renewed.

Chito said the radio duo will retain their "Morning Rush" program in the 6 to 9 a.m. time slot.

"You'll be blown away by our decision," Chico said in a text message to his *Manila Bulletin* editor, **Ivy Mendoza**. "We are going back to RX."

The duo writes an advice column, "He Says, She Says," for the newspaper every Tuesday.

June 17, when the pair returns to RX 93, also happens to be the birthday of Chico, who joined Monster Radio in 1989.

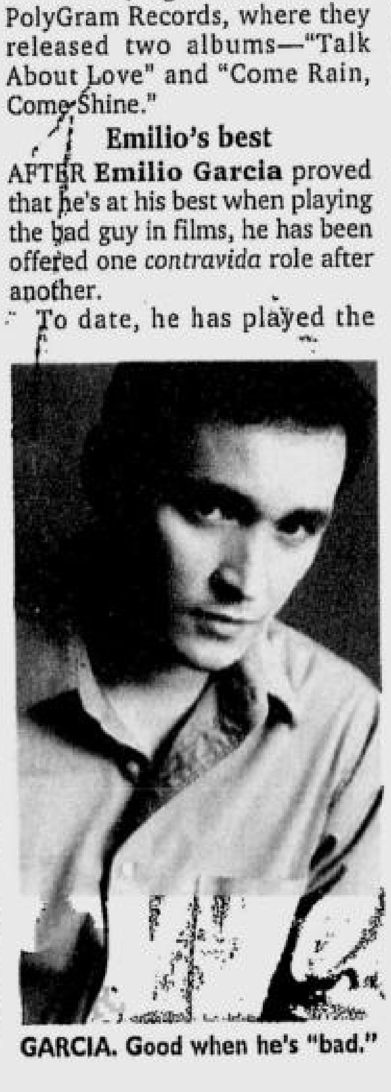
Chico and Delamar's lively repartee on morning radio helps listeners start the day right. Since 1996, when they were first heard on the airlanes, they have been supported by a cult group of listeners they call "The Rushers."

From radio, Chico and Delamar have made a great leap to TV and even recording. They became mainstays of GMA's Sunday noontime program "SOP" and later hosted their own show, "Rebyu," for Vintage TV.

The duo, managed by **Ronnie Henares**, signed a deal with PolyGram Records, where they released two albums—"Talk About Love" and "Come Rain, Come Shine."

Emilio's best

AFTER **Emilio Garcia** proved that he's at his best when playing the bad guy in films, he has been offered one *contravida* role after another.



GARCIA. Good when he's "bad."

To date, he has played the nemesis of top action stars such as **Rudy Fernandez, Bong Revilla Jr., Robin Padilla** and **Lito Lapid**.

He also played baddie to such lead actors as **Victor Neri, Ian Veneracion, Jestoni Alarcon, Jeric Raval, Monsour del Rosario** and **Ace Vergel**.

His most memorable villain role is opposite Rudy Fernandez in Star Cinema's "Birador." Rudy must have been so impressed with Emilio that the action superstar tapped him again to be his adversary in Maverick Films' "Diskarte."

In the action flick directed by **Boy Vinarao** (who also worked at the helm of "Birador"), Rudy and Emilio play friends who belong to a group of ex-marines, until Emilio double-crosses Rudy.

"I enjoy playing *contravida* because it's a challenge to pit acting talents with the action giants," says Emilio. "I'm fortunate to have worked with the best and they are all very supportive of supporting actors like me. Like Daboy (Rudy's moniker), who treats everyone in the movie set like family. It is always a pleasure working with him."

On TV, viewers loathe Emilio as the ruthless Raul in the ABS-CBN soap, "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan."

He is now wrapping up work in another action flick, this time as the opponent of **Jeric Raval**.

"Diskarte" is an official entry in the Manila Film Festival which starts June 12.

Playing his love interest in "Diskarte" is sexy newcomer **Karen Montelibano. Ara Mina** is paired with Rudy.

Completing the cast are **Tirso Cruz III, Roy Alvarez, John Arcilla** and veteran actor **Joonee Gamboa**.

From the e-mail

GISELLE Tongi (minus the "e") shares with us a quote from **Thomas Alva-Edison**: "Genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration."

That, apparently, has become Giselle's inspiration in working at the Big Apple, where she has been based for more than a year now.

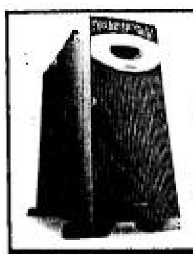
She has been doing weekly gigs on the side and bartending in a night spot on McDougal Street, while patiently waiting for her American dream to come true—to make it in the US.

She has been going to one audition after another in the hope of one day landing a TV or a movie role.

Giselle sent us a snapshot of her at work in a bar in New York.

"If you happen to be in town, drop by the bar on McDougal Street and I'll make you a kettle one on the rocks, on me," she wrote.

CHICO/ A30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WITH OR WITHOUT GOKONGWEI

Metro Pacific says it will pay debts

By Clarissa S. Batino and Doris Dumlao

METRO Pacific Corp. has assured creditors wary of the Gokongwei group's likely entry into the company that it will pay them prime properties in the Fort Bonifacio Global City when they come to collect on their loans.

A person familiar with the matter said creditors of Metro Pacific expressed "mixed feelings" over the possible entry of taipan John Gokongwei Jr. into Metro Pacific, as well as into Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., but were assured that they would be paid, as agreed upon even before Gokongwei came into the picture, either in cash or through payment-in-kind arrangements.

A senior official of one of the banks involved said Metro Pacific presented in a recent meeting a list of properties that its creditors could acquire should they decide to collect on their loans before Gokongwei could move in.

The Gokongwei group has reached an agreement with Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. to take control of Metro Pacific's 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp., as well as a 24.47-percent controlling stake in PLDT for $616 million through a $925-million joint-venture vehicle.

The source said while most creditors believed that Gokongwei's entry would hasten the development of Fort Bonifacio, they were concerned that that taipan's group might scrap Metro Pacific's high-end development thrust and dissipate the value not just of the Fort Bonifacio properties but also those near the area.

Metro Pacific owes some P12.5 billion. Around P7.5 billion are owed to 20 banks, while over P5 billion are in the form of advances from its parent firm, First Pacific.

"The creditors like Gokongwei because he has money and would probably develop Fort Bonifacio faster, unlike before when it was in limbo. But the concern is the kind of development he would pursue because the Gokongweis, as we have seen, specialize in the middle market," a president of one of the banks involved said.

A source said Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. signed last week a dacion en pago agreement with Metro Pacific. Metro Pacific owes Metrobank some P1 billion.

Metro Pacific was also in talks with the Bank of the Philippine Islands for a similar arrangement, he said.

The Export Industry Bank has the biggest exposure to Metro Pacific at more than P2 billion. Most of these debts were assumed by the bank when it took over Urban Bank Inc.

Also a big Metro Pacific creditor is the Social Security System, which has an exposure valued at P1.5 billion.

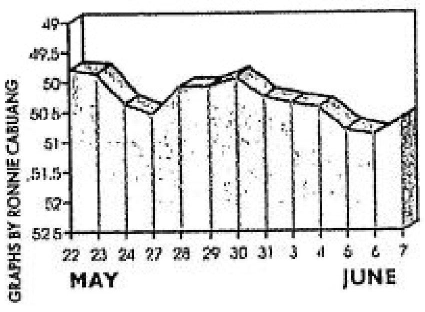
Other creditors include First e-Bank, Banco de Oro Universal Bank, Philippine National Bank, ING Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The country's biggest property developers have reportedly taken a new interest in the development of the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio, a former military base.

METRO/ B3

INDICATORS

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.63 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 7, 2002

¥ 124.30 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 7, 2002

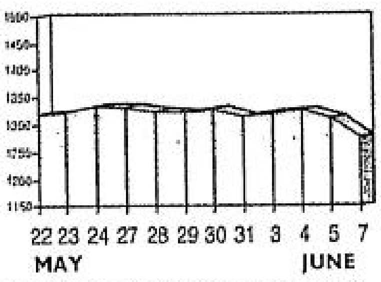
GOLD: $326.70/327.20

per ounce Hong Kong, June 7, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Cautious trading seen this week

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

THE STOCK market is expected to trade cautiously this week on jitters arising from the squabble in the Senate as well as the uncertainties on whether the Gokongwei group could breeze through its hostile takeover of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Bonifacio Land Co.

Companies with direct or indirect involvement in the $925-million deal between the Gokongweis and First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong led last week's market losers.

PLDT, BLC parent company Metro Pacific Corp. as well as the Gokongweis' JG Summit Holdings Corp. and Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. closed lower last week as opposition to the takeover intensified after the Gokongweis confirmed Wednesday the signing of a

CAUTIOUS/ B5

Pangilinan not quitting PLDT

By Doris C. Dumlao and Abigail L. Ho

PANGILINAN

MANUEL Pangilinan is sticking to his current post as president and CEO of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., even as he is putting together a consortium that will tender a counter-offer to a $925-million hostile takeover initiated by another company he runs, Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd.

"He has no intention of inhibiting himself. He is the head of (PLDT), and if it's management buying out the stakes, why should he inhibit himself?" a source identified with Pangilinan's group told the INQUIRER.

Pangilinan is facing increasing pressure to hammer out a better offer to a deal struck by First Pacific, where he is executive chair, with taipan John Gokongwei Jr.

First Pacific decided on June 4 to relinquish control of its 24.47-percent stake in PLDT and 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp. to Gokongwei's group through a $925-million joint venture.

Pangilinan has reportedly teamed up with PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr. for a management-aided buyout of First Pacific's stakes in PLDT and Bonifacio Land

PANGILINAN/ B2

CHEVROLET
VENTURE
VENTURE
Summer's biggest attraction.
Subic? Nah, Batangas. How about Bataan? The beach is beautiful this time of year. Whatever. Wherever. Finally there's one thing about family outings that everyone can agree on. It'll be a lot more comfortable driving to your destination in the new Chevrolet Venture. Plush, sofa-style seats, safety belts for all ten passengers, a multi-adjustable steering wheel for comfy driving and a spacious luggage compartment to put all your bags and your cooler in. No, the floating bed. What about the portable grill? The beach umbrellas, and...
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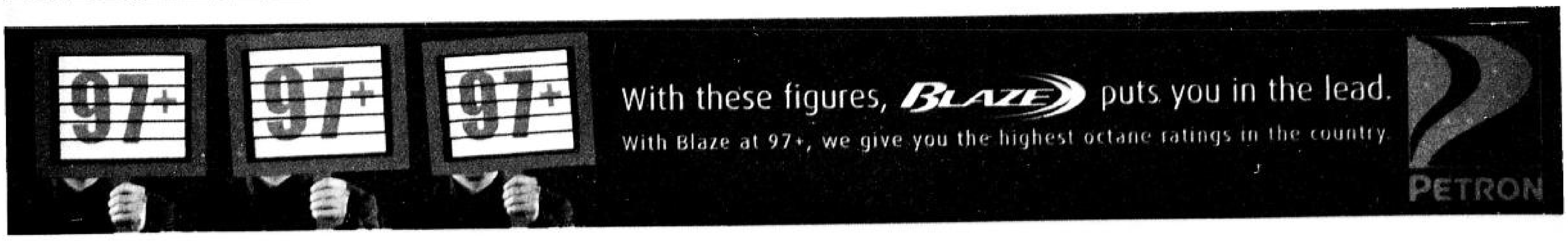

With these figures, BLAZE puts you in the lead.
With Blaze at 97+, we give you the highest octane ratings in the country.

How to plan your life insurance program

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

MY third son Gerry lives in Chino Hills, a suburb of Los Angeles, California. Recently, he wrote me an e-mail letter saying that a life insurance agent has given him a proposal for an additional yearly renewable term policy. Having been brought up properly, he asked his Old Man for advice.

Gerry practices internal medicine. His wife Mel is an anesthesiologist in a nearby hospital. They have a cute 5-year-old daughter Jeannie. Five years ago, they bought a house on a 30-year mortgage plan.

He and Mel each have a $1,000,000 yearly renewable term plan. This plan is pure life insurance. It pays only if the insured dies within the term. It has no cash value that the insured can borrow against. Neither has it any maturity value that the insured can collect at the end of the term. Hence, the premium is quite low in the early years, but it becomes prohibitive in the later years.

Gerry also has an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). This is very popular in the US. IRA is the private investment plan where you put your savings into and is set up in tandem with the term policy.

This idea of setting up a term plan, with IRA in parallel, stems from the fact that a permanent life insurance policy like the Whole Life plan combines protection and investment under one contract. The term policy leaves the protection feature with the life insurance company. The insured takes over the investment portion by investing the savings himself in an IRA, thereby earning more for himself than the life insurance company. This idea has caught fire in the United States where one has a wide range of investment opportunities, especially in equities. But I would not recommend it here in the Philippines where investment in equities is quite limited.

I advised Gerry that he should provide for what is called a clean-up fund. This fund takes care of expenses that comes up at death: funeral and burial expenses, balance of mortgage, and, above all, estate tax. This clean-up fund can best be provided for by a permanent life insurance policy like the Whole Life policy, also known as Ordinary Life policy. Life insurance is the only contract you can buy that automatically turns to cash upon death.

The Whole Life policy insures you for life. The premium is level throughout the life of the policy. It is the cheapest permanent plan because the premium is spread out until age 96 (100 in some companies).

Ask your tax consultant for an estimate of your estate tax. Then add an amount for the other expenses. The mortgage can best be covered by a reducing term plan for 25 years if this is available. If not, add this to the total sum insured of the Whole Life policy.

Then, if you still have some money left for life insurance buy the additional term plan the agent was offering.

The same process applies to Mel in determining her needs for life insurance.

One final thing: the beneficiary should be irrevocable. This way, the proceeds are beyond the clutches of the tax collector.

Gerry said that his IRA is a mix of safe and risky investments chosen by his consultant. I asked him how was his IRA performing. He said the most recent valuation showed the total value went down. But, at least, he did not have any Enron stocks.

Banks' bad loans grow 2.5% to ₱301B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANKING system's bad loans ratio went up anew to 18.23 percent of the total loan portfolio in April from 18 percent in the previous month.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data showed that the 1.22-percent growth in loan portfolio proved inadequate to offset a 2.54-percent increase in soured credits.

In April, the banks' non-performing loans or NPLs grew by P7.5 billion to P301.286 billion, from the previous month's P293.829 billion, while their loan portfolio rose by P19.9 billion to P1.652 trillion from P1.632 trillion, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

Excluding inter-bank loans out of the computation, the NPL ratio in April was still higher at 20.81 percent from 20.38 percent in March.

A year ago, the banks' bad loans ratio was at 16.76 percent of their total loans. Despite the lower interest rates level this year, borrowers still found it difficult to settle even the interests on their loans.

Non-performing loans refer to accounts whose principal and interests remained unpaid for at least 90 days after due date.

Under the broader definition of bad loans, that includes in the computation current restructured loans and foreclosed assets, further increase the NPL level to 29.3 percent.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the current ratio of soured credits to total loan portfolio was unacceptable. This is why the central bank is preparing incentives to encourage banks to start selling foreclosed assets while the bill seeking the creation of special purpose asset vehicles is still pending in Congress.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said there were indications that demand for credit would improve this year and this would help push down the banks' NPLs.

Of the P7.5-billion increase in bad loans, the local universal banks accounted for P6.8 billion even as the same group of lenders posted a P5.8-billion improvement in their loan portfolio.

Pangilinan not quitting PLDT

From page B1

using the right-of-first-refusal of Japan's Nippon Telephone and Telegraph.

NTT—PLDT's second-biggest shareholder with a 15-percent stake in the company—has 20 days to exercise this right. It has yet to decide whether it will exercise this right, although it has sent a letter reminding First Pacific of this right.

Asked whether the 20-day would be met, the source said, "We are confident that, on our side, we will respond in a timely fashion."

He said Pangilinan and Cojuangco were preparing a "rock-solid" counter-proposal that would match the Gokongweis' all-or-nothing package.

A source close to the Gokongweis said, however, that Pangilinan's and Cojuangco's camp would have to buy the First Pacific-Gokongwei joint venture out of PLDT and offer a premium for it, and it would cost at least $1.03 billion.

"They can always make a counter-offer, but they would have to buy out the joint-venture partners first—that would be First Pacific and the Gokongwei group—then they would have to either match or surpass the $925-million value of the joint venture," he said.

"It is impossible for them to come up with a better offer," he added. "They have 20 days to do draft one. They won't be able to match the current value of the joint venture," the source added.

In Congress, meanwhile, Rep. Willie Buyson Villarama stepped up pressures from lawmakers to get the Gokongweis out of PLDT.

Buyson accused the Gokongwei group's telecommunication unit, Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., of not paying debts amounting to P40 billion that the company incurred when it acquired government-owned facilities for its fixed-line network in Luzon.

Villarama, a member of the House committee on transportation and communications, which is set to probe the Gokongwei's planned entry into PLDT, said Digitel incurred these debts when it was established in 1990.

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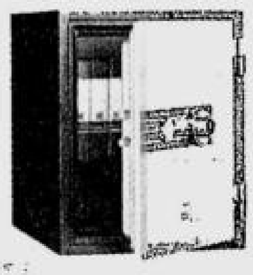

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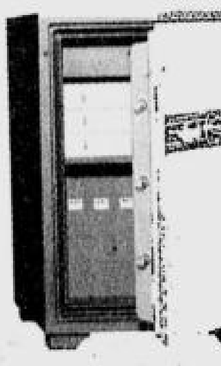

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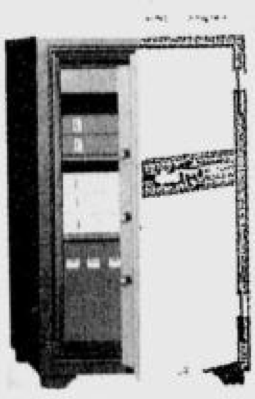

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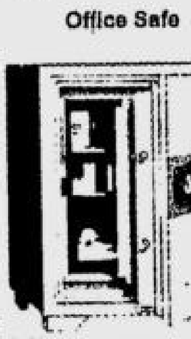

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Between the devil and First Pacific

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE DEFENSIVE barriers that Manuel V. Pangilinan helped erect in PLDT after his Hong Kong-based principals took over in late 1998 are so effective that, ironically, even MVP could not breach them.

The above statement of course assumes that MVP would eventually forsake his First Pacific principals and join a rumored Cojuangco/management revolt against the Hong Kong firm's transferring effective control of PLDT to taipan John Gokongwei.

That scenario, MVP declaring his independence from his Hong Kong principals, is fraught with legal dangers for MVP, according to the Hong Kong grapevine, starting with the likely revival of his Tanodbayan case with the introduction of fresh accounting evidence.

In other words, MVP is under the gun to follow his Hong Kong employers' wishes.

To stop Gokongwei, the Cojuangco consortium, with or without MVP, would have to seek the active alliance of NTT of Japan, which has an open-ended shareholders' agreement with First Pacific that effectively unites First Pacific and NTT as one voting bloc within PLDT.

More accurately, the Cojuangco consortium would have to use NTT as the vehicle to acquire, effectively greenmail, the First Pacific-Gokongwei joint venture.

But that route leads to a legal and constitutional minefield. According to the Hong Kong grapevine, the First Pacific-Gokongwei joint venture is structured on a 60-40 Filipino majority company, to comply with Philippine constitutional limits on utility and land ownership.

There is also the question of cost.

To effectively "match" the First Pacific-Gokongwei deal, the Cojuangco-NTT consortium would have to, first, raise $1.03 billion that the First Pacific-Gokongwei venture would receive from that deal. (Remember, Gokongwei agreed to shell out a total of $1.03 billion to gain control of PLDT and Bonifacio Land, the proceeds of which would accrue to the First Pacific-Gokongwei joint venture.)

Second, the Cojuangco-NTT consortium would also have to pay a premium to fend off and acquire, in the Cojuangco viewpoint, the raiding company. And that premium could range from a nominal $1 to, according to an initial Hong Kong figure, another $1.03 billion.

The other alternative route is for the Cojuangco consortium to raid and bring the war to Hong Kong and buy out First Pacific from the market.

But that route is far costlier—First Pacific also owns 48 percent of the Indofood noodle empire in Indonesia—and time is not on the side of a potential takeover.

Besides, First Pacific has a hidden card in the form of a 20-day notice which it can serve to Nippon Telegraph and Telephone to warn NTT that it plans to relinquish ownership of the First Pacific interests in PLDT to another party.

That scenario would open a two-front war, in Hong Kong and in Manila, for any hostile takeover attempt for First Pacific.

In addition, the Salims of First Pacific have another hidden pill to thwart any takeover attempt via the Hong Kong bourse. Besides directly owning 48 percent, the Salims, according to the grapevine, hold enough convertible bonds that would translate to another 10 percent of First Pacific.

The only quick route left, really, is to find someone to either persuade or arm-twist either Gokongwei or the Salims. But then again, Suharto is ailing and under house arrest, while Estrada is, in Erap's words, under hospital arrest.

Heard through the grapevine

SMART president Napoleon Nazareno would most likely end up as interim PLDT president as well should the First Pacific-Gokongwei plan push through.

No fireworks are expected in tomorrow's PLDT shareholders' meeting. The board replacements should come in, per the Gokongwei timetable, by the third quarter or, at the very latest, by next year's stockholders' meeting.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Metro Pacific says it will pay its debts

From page B1

INQUIRER sources said Metro Pacific was now talking to Filinvest Land Inc., Megaworld Corp. and the Pentacapital group, apart from Ayala Land Inc. and SM Prime Holdings Inc., which were already in play for Metro Pacific's stake in Bonifacio Land.

Analysts say it comes as no surprise that other property companies are now scrambling to take strategic positions in Fort Bonifacio.

"Fort Bonifacio is strategically located. It's just that the property companies thought that with (Metro Pacific), they could get bargain prices because (Metro Pacific) had a lot of debts," Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas said.

He said with Gokongwei in the picture, however, these companies would have little room to work on a profitable deal as they could not easily push the taipan's cash-rich group around as easily as Metro Pacific.

A source from the camp of Metro Pacific chair Manuel Pangilinan said First Pacific's deal with the Gokongwei group would "put at a severely low discount the valuation of Fort Bonifacio properties."

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Kuok to revive ₱2-B condo project

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE KUOK property group plans to revive its P2-billion Shang Tower high-end condominium project this year in anticipation of a rebound in the local real estate market.

During the stockholders meeting of Kuok Philippine Properties Inc. last Friday, management committee chair Tomas Zita Jr. said the plan was to bring in one of the companies under its Hong Kong-based parent firm as a partner to provide financial muscle to the venture.

Its current project partners are lot owners SGV and Co. and the Centrum group, which have committed to put in their adjacent lots along Dela Rosa Street in Makati covering a combined area of 2,800 square meters as equity to the project.

"It was shelved in the past because of the economic conditions," Zita said.

Zita, however, added that it might be a good time to take strategic position now in anticipation of the rebound in the property sector.

"By the time the project is completed in three to four years, demand from the upscale sector would likely pick up as well," Zita said.

"A lot of other companies have started their development. Ayala has developed One Legazpi Tower and then there's the Manansala project in Rockwell," Zita noted.

Zita also said KPPI would continue efforts to dispose of idle land assets in its inventory and develop others through joint venture agreements.

Based on KPPI's annual report, the company planned to sell its land held for future development, principally the properties of subsidiaries KPPI Land Corp. (KLC), Cebu Consolidated Estates Inc. and New Contour Realty Inc.

The company has also appointed a financial advisor to help sell its 60 percent interest in KLC, either through a share purchase or direct property sale.

"A successful sale of this asset could result in the elimination of a major portion of the company's liabilities and interest burden, and eventually improve its liquidity position," the report said.

KPPI has P2.22 billion in total current liabilities as of end-2001, up from P1.52 billion a year ago and P1.94 billion worth of long-term debts. Assets, on the other hand, amounted to P13 billion.
KPPI incurred a net loss of P1.05 billion last year, up from the P654-million loss in 2000, due mainly to interest expenses and loss provisions.

The Kuok group is involved in real estate development through KPPI, Edsa Properties Holdings Inc. and other units. Its interests in the Philippines include the Edsa Shangri-la malls, the Enterprise Center in Makati and the Shangri-la hotels.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday June 7, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	20.5	20.5	20.25	20.25	944,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56.5	56.5	55.5	56.5	475,500
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	820
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38	38	35.5	36	703,500
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.72	140,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38	38	36	36.5	720,600
Philippine National Bank	34	35	34	35	194,300
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	700
Security Bank Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	43,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23	23	23	6,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	34,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1450	1450	1450	1,160
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1135	1140	1135	1140	2,130
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	14,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.7	0.71	13,470,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	655	660	645	660	7,620
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	6,000,000
Piltel	0.36	0.38	0.35	0.36	2,320,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	442.5	442.5	417.5	422.5	205,700
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	72,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.5	1,300
Manila Electric Co. B	33.5	33.5	33	33.5	1,166,400
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.74	1.66	1.68	6,134,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.54	242,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	280,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.48	2.36	2.36	1,279,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.33	0.4	0.33	0.4	800,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	3,000,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	40,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	870,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.34	2.34	2.32	2.34	155,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	94,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34	34	33.5	34	950,000
RFM Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.18	985,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	16,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	48	47.5	48	102,500
San Miguel Corp. B	54.5	55	53.5	54	734,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	9,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	70,000
Ayala Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.5	5.7	4,208,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.34	2.3	2.3	785,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	1,500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	380,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	83,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.7	96,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	7,510,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	150,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23	23	22.75	22.75	210,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	250,000
Ionics Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	142,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.7	130,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.78	3,700,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.3	0.32	21,040,000
Music Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.24	70,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	4,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	390,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	5,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	5	5	5	5	2,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	60,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	4,900,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.33	0.33	1,770,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.47	2,810,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	540,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	4.8	4.8	13,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	28	28	27.5	27.5	2,080,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	0.2	0.32	0.2	0.31	330,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	845	845	845	845	400
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	207,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.2	27,966,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3.05	3.05	3	3	196,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	470,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	3,920,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	1,090,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.34	2.38	11,422,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.78	1.78	1.72	1.72	80,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	100,000
City & Land Developers	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	40,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.23	1,120,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	80,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	2,000
SM Development Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	160,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.5	16,243,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1,000,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.9	11,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.038	0.04	16,700,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	2,010,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	56,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	510,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,200,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	63,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	23,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	8,100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	3,268,110	110,121,005.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	246,516,220	348,832,705.00
PRO	64,111,000	296,475,310.00
Mining	75,331,000	1,478,500.00
OIL	97,300,000	418,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	486,526,330	757,325,920.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	523.54	DOWN 10.39
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,757.28	DOWN 30.63
PRO	539.90	DOWN 23.76
Mining	1,395.32	DOWN 19.58
OIL	1.31	DOWN 0.06
All Shares Index	747.13	DOWN 7.14
Composite	1,274.87	DOWN 27.81

NO. OF ADVANCES: 11; NO. OF DECLINES: 66; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 115; NO. OF TRADES: 3,281

CURRENCIES

June 7, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.055966	1.000000	50.8260
Japan	Yen	0.008503	0.008052	0.4093
United Kingdom	Pound	0.486589	0.460800	23.4206
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.135396	0.128220	6.5169
Switzerland	Franc	0.678423	0.642467	32.6540
Canada	Dollar	0.688958	0.652443	33.1611
Singapore	Dollar	0.588118	0.556948	28.3074
Australia	Dollar	0.607925	0.575705	29.2608
Bahrain	Dinar	2.801120	2.652661	134.8241
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.281591	0.266667	13.5536
Brunei	Dollar	0.586420	0.555340	28.2257
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000117	0.000111	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024857	0.023540	1.1964
UAE	Dirham	0.287533	0.272294	13.8396
Korea	Won	0.000873	0.000827	0.0420
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.947000	48.1322
Argentina	Peso	0.290100	0.274725	14.1158
Brazil	Real	0.399382	0.378215	19.2232
Denmark	Kroner	0.124431	0.127306	6.4705
India	Rupee	0.021581	0.020437	1.0387
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.277886	0.263158	13.3753
Mexico	New Peso	0.108382	0.102638	5.2167
New Zealand	Dollar	0.517326	0.489908	24.9001
Norway	Kroner	0.134624	0.127489	6.4798
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017600	0.016667	0.8471
South Africa	Rand	0.108348	0.102606	5.2151
Sweden	Kroner	0.109025	0.103247	5.2476
Syria	Pound	0.024164	0.022883	1.1631
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031086	0.029438	1.4962
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000935	0.000885	0.0450

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Phaser 6200
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MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

MY WIFE is into some kind of aerobics called Pilates. And believe it or not, her instructor's name is Pontius. That reminds me, some years ago, Boeing did an investigation as to who was responsible for the crucifixion. Their conclusion was Pilate error.

I am getting forgetful in my old age so I was delighted to see a book entitled, "How to develop an amazing memory." Unfortunately, I have forgotten where I saw it.

I went into a drugstore and the man in front of me asked the salesgirl for a deodorant. "What kind do you want," asked the girl, "the ball type?" "No," said the man, "it is for under my arms."

Earlier this week, I wrote to subscribers that the infighting in the Senate would hold up several important bills, the effect of which would be to hurt the people, destroy the economy, and cause foreign investors to lose confidence in the Philippines and sell their investments. With this scenario, I advised investors to get out of the market and stay out.

Since then, the market has been in free fall, and the government overshooting the 6-month target by P6 billion in only four months, will do nothing to enhance economic prospects. For the past three years, the newsletter has been very accurate in its macro forecasting. There are cheaper services around, but you get what you pay for.

A few weeks ago, before I got sidetracked into fundamental analysis, I told you what kind of technical analysis I believed in, the kind that relates to people, and how they react. So support and resistance levels are high on my list because investors remember what price they bought a stock, and if it goes down, they tend to sell when it recovers to their cost price. Conversely, when they sell a stock, and it goes up, they tend to buy it, when it falls back to the price they sold it. This is human nature and applies to everybody.

However, there is also esoteric mumbo jumbo that does not relate to people's actions and has no mathematical basis. Let us start with Elliott Wave. This is well known in the United States and to some extent in the Philippines. It was unknown in England when I left in 1980 so when I arrived here, I thought it was a hairstyle.

A long time ago, 1929, Ralph Elliot lay in bed suffering from pernicious anaemia. There were no Playboy or Penthouse magazines in those days, no Survivor series or Charlie's Angels, so all he had to do was to read the Wall Street Journals. Poring over them, day after day, he saw, correctly, that the stocks seemed to move in waves, though their amplitude and periodicity varied each time and were therefore unpredictable. This was, in fact, an important observation and Welles Wilder, many years later, produced a number of mathematical indicators, which are incorporated into all computer software and used extensively by technical analysts.

Where he erred, was to state that bull markets consisted of five up waves and bear markets of three down waves. There is absolutely no mathematical basis for this assumption. Bull and bear markets can go up and down in any odd number of waves. To make matters worse, he never defined the size of a wave, 10 percent, 5 percent, one percent, so it is purely a matter of subjective interpretation. Give a chart to 10 Elliott Wave analysts and they will probably produce 10 different answers. They will often disagree as to which wave they are in.

Bob Prechter, who went around the world expounding the theory, produced Elliott's hypothesis in book form. In 1980, he came to Manila, where he met a former president of All Asia Securities who was also an Elliott Wave devotee. All that time, gold was enjoying a boom, so they studied the charts of the gold sector and the industrial sector. Guess what? They came to opposite conclusions on both sectors. Bob Prechter said one sector was a buy and the other a sell; the president said the first was a sell and the other a buy. In the event, they each got one right and one wrong, but it shows how subjective the theory must be, when two experts come to diametrically opposite views, because it has no clearly defined parameters.

It is virtually impossible to fit a bull market into five waves, unless you have a vivid imagination, and the benefit of hindsight, so it was permissible to break down each wave into five sub waves. If this did not work, you could break each sub wave into minuet waves, and then into sub minuet waves. In fact, I see no reason why you could not go down into the sub atomic scale, ending with quarks.

The same applies to bear markets where you break the waves into three, then sub waves of three, then minuet and sub minuet waves, all in steps of three. A bull market can consist of any odd number of waves, and so can a bear market. To make a theory valid, the waves must be quantified so that everyone can test the theory and see whether it can be verified or not.

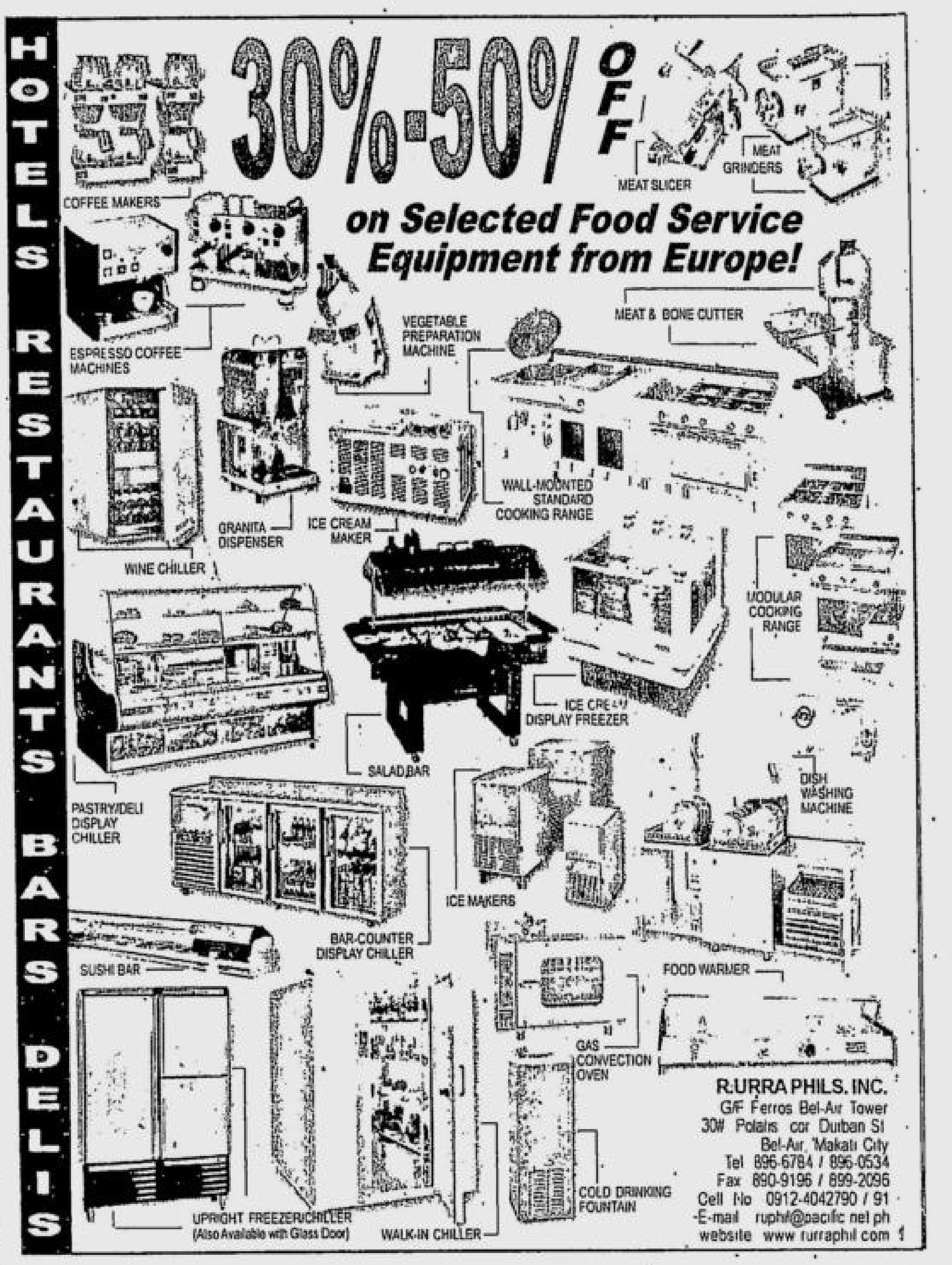
The theory of relativity made startling predictions such as black holes, and the slowing down of time as you approached the speed of light. There were equations, which indicated these properties precisely, and they were verified exactly as Einstein predicted.

The breaking down of the waves reminds me of a poem I learned in school.

Big fleas have little fleas.
Upon their backs to bite 'em.
And little fleas have littler fleas
And so ad infinitum.

Before I receive a flood of angry emails from believers, I am not decrying the observations of Mr. Elliott because scientific knowledge proceeds in small steps. The first airplane flown by the Wright broth-

CELL/ B8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Star TV moves to curb piracy

SOME local cable companies may lose top-rating cable channels like ESPN, Star Sports, Star Movies, Star World, National Geographic Channel and Viva Cinema after cable provider Star TV announced it might not renew their contracts.

Star TV said in a statement on Friday that it would start offering its channels in packages to give cable operators a break in prices, a 40-percent reduction from the previous rates. The "one-stop-shop" approach for five of Star's top channels in the Philippines is expected to provide improved programming options and will keep Star competitive amid a tightening cable TV industry.

To avail themselves of the bundled packages as well as the lower rates, however, cable operators must first agree to make a "full, accurate and truthful" declaration of their subscriber base.

"Cable operators who prefer to continue under-declaring their subscriber base will not enjoy the lower rates. We want to deal with cable operators honestly and even-handedly," Star TV regional director Charles Pollard said in a statement.

He added that this move would help level the playing field for all cable operators, as some get away with offering Star TV channels to their subscribers without having to pay for programming rates.

"Despite warnings, many still use foreign and illegally imported decoders and many submit fake subscriber names and addresses. It breaks all international norms and standards of commercial behavior and respect for intellectual property rights," Pollard said.

In an earlier interview, SkyCable managing director Carlos Tria Jr. said it was difficult to place an exact figure to the total number of cable subscribers in the country because cable operators refused to disclose the number of their subscribers.

"Any operator who takes down our encrypted signal without authorization is a pirate and is simply trying to evade paying program providers while continuing to charge their subscribers," Pollard said.

Star TV's move to bundle its top channels had already gotten support from local cable industry players.

Tria said SkyCable had thrown its support for Star TV's move to package its channels. He said there was a need for the cable TV industry to unite with programmers to address under-declaration and piracy.

"Star's objective is something which we have been working on all these years, something we want to implement for a long time. We want to rationalize the industry, create fairness to all operators and improve industry standards," Philippine Cable Television Association president Manuel Dabao said. ***With a report from Abigail L. Ho***

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Cautious trading seen this week

From page B1

memorandum of agreement with First Pacific.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index ended the week 3.05 percent lower at 1,274.87.

Even property companies such as Ayala Land Inc., SM Prime Holdings Inc. and Filinvest Land Inc. were dragged down as fund managers scaled down asset valuations based on the valuation of BLC's 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City in the Gokongwei package.

Based on the deal structure and the implied valuation of a 50.4-percent stake in BLC of P50,000 per square meter, as announced by JG Summit president Lance Gokongwei, a foreign brokerage house estimated that the deal translated to a valuation of over P700 per share for PLDT and a little over P30,000/sq.m. for the Fort Bonifacio property.

Considering the remaining unsold lots of over 80 hectares in the 150-ha Fort Bonifacio Global City and the $105 million in debts to be assumed by the joint venture, the analyst said the effective valuation of the 50.1-percent stake in BLC would be about $280 million (P14 billion) and $645 million for the 24.47 percent of PLDT.

Analysts said the market feared that the PLDT ownership squabble might drag on for a long time and disrupt efforts by the local telecom giant to secure financing.

"The possibility of a prolonged legal battle for the control of PLDT kept investors sidelined. They will most likely wait for the new developments next week most especially during the stockholders meeting on June 11. Other news such as the government budget deficit and the dispute in the Senate leadership also weighed on the market," BPI Securities said, noting that the next market support levels would be at 1,260 and 1,200.

Stock market portal 2tradeasia.com said the investing community's radar screen would be glued on the results of PLDT and MPC annual shareholders' meeting tomorrow (June 11), specifically on the Pangilinan camp's potential counter strategies. Based on its analysis, 2tradeasia.com said:

- Equities players should have already accepted the fact that First Pacific's move to tie up with the Gokongweis was "inevitable" to allow the former to pay its debts;
- First Pacific's alliance with the Gokongwei group will benefit PLDT's debt-restructuring with the latter's proven prudent financial management style, and,
- The struggle for the control of PLDT will benefit present buyers of the stock, especially if Pangilinan's group would make a counter offer to the Gokongwei group's P1,130/share buy-in price. ***Doris C.***

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PAL guarantors willing to honor put option deal

By Clarissa S. Batino

FORTUNE Tobacco Corp. and Asia Brewery Inc., both owned by taipan Lucio Tan, have indicated to the government their willingness to settle the P2-billion put option obligations of Philippine Airlines to the government, said a finance officer of one of the government financial institutions holding interests in the flag carrier.

The one-month leeway the government had given PAL to settle its obligations ended last Friday, and the government and the five GFIs are now bent on running after PAL's guarantors such as Fortune and Asia Brewery.

The government said it gave the guarantors a month up to July 7 to come to PAL's rescue. Otherwise, the Office of the Solicitor General will file a case against PAL.

The government, the five GFIs and Lucio Tan signed a put option agreement on April 1996. Under the deal, Tan agreed to buy at P5 per share the remaining shares of the state in PAL after six years. The agreement lapsed last May 7. The government and the five GFIs hold a combined stake of 4.26 percent in the airline.

Another source said Tan would be eager to get the government completely out of PAL after President Macapagal-Arroyo made a statement that she was considering putting the airline back to state control to facilitate tourism and push the open-skies policy.

"If Tan was not so hot on the put option before, he would definitely want to honor it now to get the government out of the picture after the loaded statement made by the president two weeks ago," said a source.

However, the so-called re-nationalization of PAL met criticisms from various sectors. Former central bank Governor Jose Cuisia, for one, said the plan would go against the government's privatization policy.

"They (the government) should put pressure on him (Tan) to honor his obligations. They should just implement their agreement,: Cuisia stressed.

"We saw how the government managed PAL before and I don't think it should get it back. The government can take other measures to encourage tourism, it does not have to own an airline," he added.

Of the 4.26 percent combined state interest in PAL, the Government Service Insurance System accounts for 1.37 percent; national government, 0.96 percent; Land Bank of the Philippines, 0.69 percent; Development Bank of the Phils. and the AFP-Retirement Service Benefits System with 0.31 percent each, and Philippine National Bank, 0.46 percent.

The airline earlier cited its weak financial position as an excuse to get out of the six-year-old agreement.

PAL said the six-year-old agreement supposedly provided that the put option was to be exercised if the airline was in good financial health. But the flag carrier's par value is now down to P1 and its book value is only 33 centavos per share.

PAL is expecting to register losses of P1.6 billion to P1.8 billion this fiscal year starting March. Paying the put option, PAL said, would further put pressure on its financial position.

With a report from Elena Torrijos

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1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,700,000	
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,750,000	1,700,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	650,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	190,000	175,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS		370,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	210,000	190,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	350,000	330,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		250,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	280,000	
19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
20. MANILA POLO CLUB		2,800,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	620,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	700,000
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	370,000	
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	210,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	210,000
32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	250,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB		850,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND		750,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	
37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	240,000
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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	70,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	100,000	110,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	300,000
Canlubang	550,000	Please Call
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	120,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	210,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	225,000	280,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	12,000,000	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,750,000	2,850,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	700,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	-
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat	300,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	190,000	230,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	300,000	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club		220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,800,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,000,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	300,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	740,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	180,000
Valley Golf	270,000	350,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,800,000	Please Call

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	80,000

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Partial List	06/07/2002	Share Swapping: Please Call	
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ALABANG "A"	Call now	BAGUIO CC	Call now
CANLUBANG GC	625,000	CAMP JOHN HAY	250,000
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	CELEBRITY CLUB	Call now
CELEBRITY CLUB	Call now	CC AT TAGAYTAY	Call now
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	12,000,000	EAGLE RIDGE "A"	300,000
MANILA POLO	3,000,000	MANILA POLO	2,750,000
MLA SWOODS "A"	670,000	MLA SWOODS "B"	730,000
ORCHARD "A"/"B"	Call now	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	205,000
PUNTA FUEGO	Call now	RIVIERA GCC "C"	450,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	220,000	SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	Call now
RIVIERA GCC "A"	Call now	TAGAYTAY H'LANDS GOLF	820,000
STA. ELENA GC "A"	1,800,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	750,000
SUBIC BAY YACHT (INDIV)	200,000	VALLEY GOLF	220,000
THE COUNTRY CLUB	Call now	WACK-WACK GOLF	6,875,000

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	35,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	20,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	THE COUNTRY CLUB	Call now
STA. ELENA "A"	65,000	WACK WACK	90,000

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Alta Vista	-	300,000
Baguio Country Club	740,000	700,000
Camp John Hay	295,000	270,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC A/B*	130,000	150,000*
Canyon Woods	190,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club	100,000	-
City Sports Club	630,000	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	180,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"C"*	340,000/600,000*	330,000
Eastridge	200,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fairways & Blue Waters	500,000	-
Fontana D/C	90,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills "A"	230,000	200,000
Manila Golf	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,800,000	2,700,000
Makati Sports Club	250,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	650,000	700,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./C3*	140,000/300,000*	-
Mt. Malarayat	350,000	-
Orchard Golf	250,000	230,000
Phil. Columbian	80,000	60,000
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"	100,000/Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	200,000	-
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	190,000/450,000*	-
Riviera Golf "B"	250,000	-
Rockwell	380,000	325,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C	90,000/140,000	70,000
Sherwoods	105,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	330,000	-
Subic Golf	180,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	430,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	870,000	800,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	770,000
Valley Golf & CC	-	280,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	150,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	7,200,000	-

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2	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	800,000.00	-
3	CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	-	100,000.00
4	CALIRAYA SPRING	please call	-
5	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	120,000.00
6	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	500,000.00	415,000.00
7	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	200,000.00	
8	FONTANA "D"	70,000.00	
9	FOREST HILLS "C"		250,000.00
10	MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)		11,000,000.00
11	MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2,700,000.00
12	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	630,000.00	-
13	MIMOSA (Ind.)	-	120,000.00
14	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	-	400,000.00
15	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	35,000.00	
16	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	275,000.00	
17	PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	80,000.00	
18	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "A"	100,000.00	
19	PUNTA FUEGO	550,000.00	
20	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000.00	
21	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	250,000.00	
22	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "C"	350,000.00	
23	ROCKWELL	550,000.00	
24	SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	100,000.00	
25	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	150,000.00	
26	SPA & LODGE	870,000.00	
27	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"		1,600,000.00
28	SPLENDIDO		Please call
29	SUBIC YACHT CLUB (Ind.)	200,000.00	
30	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB	500,000.00	-
31	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	740,000.00
32	THE COUNTRY CLUB	2,800,000.00	
33	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	165,000.00	
34	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	-	250,000.00
35	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	7,000,000.00	-
36	OTHERS	Please call	

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB	P 30,000.00	TAGAYTAY GOLF CLUB	40,000.00
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	[illegible]	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	40,000.00
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	20,000.00	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	15,000.00
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	20,000.00	WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	80,000.00
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	30,000.00	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB	20,000.00
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	50,000.00	OTHERS	Please call

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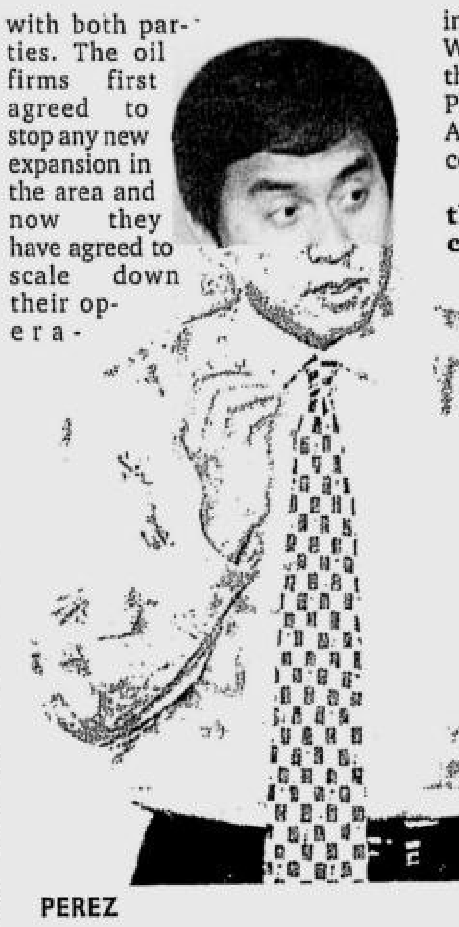
DIFFICULT BUT NOT INSURMOUNTABLE

Energy sector faces new challenges, radical changes

A DECADE after the crippling electricity crisis when the country experienced daily brownouts of 8-10 hours and suffered steeply rising prices of petroleum products, the energy sector is again the focus of issues.

Back then, the main problems were a severe lack of power generating capacity to support demand coupled with the high price of oil and maintenance costs for the old power plants. Now the public takes on exorbitant power charges, fears of disruption in oil supply due to the Pandacan depot impasse and the challenges of the new natural gas industry.

The year-old Electric Power Industry Reform Act brings radical changes in the energy sector, most of which are confusing to an already confused public. What is going on out there? Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., the man in the frontlines, shares his views and the government's position on all these during a roundtable interview with the Business Section of the INQUIRER.



PEREZ

Question: What is the status of the country's energy sector? How vulnerable are we to the developments in the Middle East, our primary source of oil?

Answer: Let me start with what we call the indigenous energy mix, which is a very important measure of self-sufficiency. In 1973, when the oil embargo happened as a result of the Arab-Israeli war, we were about 93 percent dependent on imported fuel. As a result of that, the Philippine National Oil Co. was formed and there was a lot of push in promoting geothermal energy and in looking for local oil and coal reserves.

Last year, we crossed the very symbolic threshold of 50 percent. With the advent of local natural gas from Malampaya, our goal is to bring the local component of the energy mix up to 55 percent soon.

Q & A

This is the thinking of the Filipino: We are so helpless as we depend on the Middle East for much of our fuel. This thinking is exacerbated by the fact that our neighbors—Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia—are all oil-producing countries while we are not. So psychologically, raising the percentage of the local component in our energy mix is very important.

Now we have Malampaya gas and some oil beneath it, in addition to the remaining oil from earlier finds. We have hydroelectric power. We have some local coal from Semirara in Antique and in Zamboanga.

Q: How does the local oil industry fare these days? Has the industry's deregulation started paying off?

A: Before deregulation, there were only three local oil companies: Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. We are now well into the fourth year of deregulation and we have now at least 60 new oil players cornering 11 percent of the domestic market.

Dominant players Petron and Shell are neck and neck in the competition. However, Caltex lost some of its share and whatever it lost was what the new players gained.

What does this mean? Let's just look at oil price adjustments. If Caltex makes a move, nobody minds. But if Shell makes a move, Petron follows, and vice versa.

The new players have an advantage when oil prices are going down. Why? They are importers, they don't have refineries or big inventories like the Big Three. And usually in a dull market, the international prices become more reactive, more elastic.

Last year when world prices were going down, we have companies like Eastern Petroleum, Seaoil Petroleum, and Unioil leading the reduction in local prices. The Big Three were the reluctant followers. But if global prices are moving up, the refiners have more staying power because they buy crude and can stockpile about two months of inventory. Refined products can also be stored for up to six months.

Q: Will these oil companies really relocate their depots in Pandacan?

A: There's been a lot of debate whether or not to relocate. This can be traced to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. The President decided to use that event to push for a lot of reforms, including the relocation of the Pandacan depots.

The three oil companies in Pandacan have signed an MOU with the DoE to study whether or not relocation is needed. It's a security issue because nearby the area is Malacañang. But it is more than that, it's now more of an urban renewal issue.

The oil companies have been there since the 1900s, *bukid pa lang ang Pandacan noon.*

The city council of Manila has decided that the depots have to move out by June 30. We are trying to work with both parties. The oil firms first agreed to stop any new expansion in the area and now they have agreed to scale down their operations there.

The deadline given by the Manila City government is June 30 but there are still a lot of legal issues, valid or not. It's debatable whether they have legal authority, you know, you cannot just declare a place an industrial, commercial or residential zone. It's a process.

Q: Where would they transfer?

A: It (the relocation place) doesn't exist right now. Most likely a reclaimed area somewhere in Manila Bay. We can't do it in Batangas because we will have massive disruption of supply in North Luzon. If you move it to Bulacan, supply to South Luzon will likewise be disrupted. It will not be that far but I can imagine there will probably be about 3,500 trucks coming and going everyday, *malaking traffic yan.*

There is also a proposal to just shrink the size of the depot's area and have an urban renewal program in and around it.

Q: Going back to Malampaya and its oil reserves, can we extract the oil there without using up all the gas first?

A: Well, that's a rather technological feat. The drilling for oil is being done horizontally to avoid the gas reserves.

Malampaya is significant for the Philippines. This is the largest well ever made in the entire hundred years of drilling history in the Philippines. We need a very advanced technology to get the gas and the oil. The well was made 843 meters underwater. The gas is 3 kilometers below the ocean floor, it's really that deep.

The gas there can produce some 2,700 megawatts of power and the projected oil production there accounts for about 8 percent of our daily consumption. It has been flowing since December and we've exported the oil to South Korea and Singapore.

Q: Can't our local refineries use that oil?

A: For technical reasons, no. Malampaya oil has a different quality and our refineries are not equipped to process that kind of oil, they are used to Middle Eastern oil. It will require oil firms here huge investments to suit their refineries to Malampaya oil.

We really need to push more drilling. With Malampaya, you already have like a showcase. So we can say to exploration firms: "Come to the Philippines, we have already Malampaya, it's proven." Somebody has made money or can make money in the Philippines.

We did an 18-month study with the help of the Norwegian government. We went back on all the data accumulated so far and the results were interesting. We found that we have 16 sedimentary basins, originally we thought there were only 13. A basin is sort of a pool of hydrocarbons.

The area covering these basins is seven times the size of our landmass, which means there are seven times more potential hydrocarbon reserve than our land area. That is the potential resource underneath the Philippines. All that is needed is more drilling and mapping.

Q: How do we do that?

A: We should increase the number of firms exploring for oil and gas. There should be more incentives for them. We expect to sign new service contracts with firms from the United Kingdom, Japan and Canada. This is good. Finally, people are starting to take a look at the Philippines.

Did you know that the number of wells drilled in Indonesia in one year is more than all the total wells drilled in the Philippines in its entire history? We are under promoted. One of the things we need to do is promote the Philippines as an oil and gas resource. And we use Malampaya now as our come-on.

Q: What incentives are you thinking for the exploration companies?

A: Of course tax incentives. However, what I want to promote is more Filipino participation in these projects. The old regime gave projects some incentives if there were Filipino partners. But I'd rather change the focus of the incentive and give subcontracting the emphasis because it's a good way to promote employment and develop our engineering skills.

The old regime had no incentive that will encourage firms to be cost-efficient because they know that they can always recover their costs. I want to make the value of the incentive to be based on revenues.

Q: How do you think can the energy sector make use of the Philippine equities market?

A: If you noticed, we have been advocating the listing of the government shares in Malampaya. We want to give the investing public the opportunity to participate in the oil and gas play. So we're pushing PNOC Exploration Corp. to list either the company itself or its stake in Malampaya.

I'm encouraging more stock market listings from the energy sector. That's why you always hear me publicly urging Pilipinas Shell to do it this year.

Q: How will the Electric Power Industry Reform Act or Epira work to improve the country's energy sector?

A: The Epira is a landmark legislation. It provides for the privatization of Napocor and the creation of National Transmission Corp. as well as a special purpose vehicle called Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

Then, we are going to have a venue for electricity trading called the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market.

We are going to deregulate the generation sector. We will sell Napocor's power plants to different companies. However, the transmission business will remain a monopoly. It doesn't make sense to have two utilities in one area with two different sets of lines crossing each other. And since transmission will be a monopoly, we will have to regulate it through the Energy Regulatory Commission to do that.

We are going to make the power generating side competitive. Through WESM, the most efficient power plants would be able to sell their power first. We call it priority dispatch. There will be further competition because we will be selling the electricity to different players.

We've done a simulation and the analysis is that the cheapest energy source will be coal, then hydro and geothermal. Probably, the next will probably be natural gas and tanker fuel. Malampaya gas is costly because it is very expensive to extract.

Q: What about the retail sector? How will you ensure that the benefits from all these will trickle down to the consumers?

A: There will also be competition in the retail business. New power providers could approach any prospective big consumers, say, the homeowners of a village and offer their services. They will compete with Meralco. It is called open access. High voltage transmission and distribution lines will be opened to competitive consumers. The minimum power need should be 1 MW but this should go down to 750 kilowatt-hours, that's up to the ERC.

Q: How mature or prepared is the local market for that?

A: This is being done in other countries like the United Kingdom. The customers choose. He probably won't buy from hydro plants in summer. The generating companies will now have marketing properties. The contracts will depend on the seller and the buyer.

You can buy from anywhere. Like in New York, for example, it buys hydroelectric power all the way from Canada. They pay for the transmission charges. So there will likely be a day in the future when residents of Salcedo Village can say, "We're gonna buy hydropower from Mindanao."

Q: When are we going to implement the open access system?

A: The law says open access should be implemented within three years

ENERGY/ B8

RP gets 2 more years to enjoy GSP privileges

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WASHINGTON has agreed to extend by another two years the duty-free perks granted to the Philippines under the United States' Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program with nearly double the amount of trade allotted to the country in the past years.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the US Congress had approved the extension of the Philippines' GSP privileges that lapsed last September.

Roxas said the new GSP would give the Philippines duty-free access to the US for $1.2 billion worth of products yearly, which is 50 percent to 90 percent of the total amount sold by the Philippines since 1999. Exports to the US under the GSP program account for roughly 10 percent of the country's total exports to its biggest trading partner.

Roxas, however, stressed that the US GSP merely provided the Philippines with access to the world's biggest economy and that this did not guarantee sales. "We have to find the buyers for our products," Roxas said.

The Philippines ranks fifth among the top beneficiaries of the US GSP program behind Thailand, Indonesia, India and Angola. The US GSP is granted to 139 countries worldwide.

The Philippine products shipped through the US GSP program are wiring harness, raw sugar, line telephone sets, reception apparatus, finished electrical and electronic equipment, and metal furniture.

The US GSP program gives Philippine exports an edge over rivals China and Vietnam that are low-cost producers but are not GSP beneficiaries.

The program—aimed at creating trade opportunities for developing countries and encouraging broad-based economic development—is unilateral as beneficiary countries do not grant reciprocal tariff concessions to the US.

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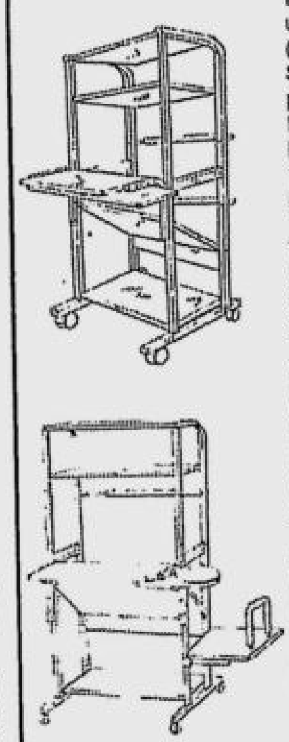

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6798 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tels. 8915825 – 8915826; e-mail: jleynes@leyneslaw.com

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on June 25, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 29, 2001
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2001
5. Approval of the 2001 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Reduction of the Par Value of the Corporation's Common Shares from Sixty Pesos (P60.00) to Forty Pesos (P40.00), Resulting in the Decrease of the Authorized Capital Stock from P50,000,000,040.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares to P33,333,333,360.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares and the Amendment for this Purpose of Article Seventh of the Amended Articles of Incorporation
7. Approval of the Increase in the Authorized Capital Stock from P33,333,333,360.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares to P50,000,000,040.00 Divided into 1,054,824,557 Common Shares and 195,175,444 Preferred Shares with a Par Value of P40.00 Per Share
8. Issuance of 195,175,444 Preferred Shares to PDIC as Partial Payment for P7,807M Worth of Previously Contracted Loans
9. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
10. Election of Directors
11. Appointment of External Auditor
12. Other Matters
13. Adjournment

Minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors starting from June 26, 2001 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary. In addition, copies of the minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting will also be made available at the meeting venue for stockholders who wish to examine the minutes but who were unable to do so prior to the meeting.

Only stockholders of record as of May 31, 2002 will be entitled to vote at this meeting. For this purpose, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from June 17 to June 24, 2002.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** instrument to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. of June 20, 2002. A proxy instrument shall conform with the requirements of Sec. 58 of the Corporate Code, and shall be affixed with a duly paid documentary stamp tax in accordance with Sec. 192 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

Pasay City, May 17, 2002

MA. CECILIA L. PESAYCO
Corporate Secretary

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IN EXCHANGE FOR DROPPING PROTEST

RP urged to import rice, sugar from Thailand

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THAILAND has asked the Philippines to get its rice or sugar imports from Thailand in exchange for dropping its opposition to the Macapagal administration's move to maintain the tariff protection on the local sugar industry for another three years.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said Thailand feared the loss of a potentially significant market for its sugar because of the transfer of Philippine sugar from the temporary exclusion list to the sensitive list of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) program under the Asean Free Trade Area or Afta.

Tariffs on sugar—pegged at 65 percent—would have been brought down drastically to at least 5 percent by next year had sugar not been transferred to the sensitive list where products are allowed to keep tariffs high up to 2005.

The local sugar industry petitioned the government to keep duties on sugar at 80 percent up to 2010 to give it enough time to improve efficiency and become globally competitive.

President Macapagal-Arroyo previously assured Thailand that the Philippines was not its rival in the sugar business because the country sells its output in the US quota market while Thailand sells its sugar in the world market.

Ms Macapagal said Thailand should instead consider the Philippines as a market for its sugar.

She assured the Thai government that Thailand would be on the top of the list of sugar suppliers in case of a shortage in sugar supply.

Thailand is the biggest sugar exporter in Asean and it has sought compensation from both the Philippines and Indonesia for backtracking on their commitments to open up their markets.

Insurance firm to push ahead with ₱200-M IPO by Sept.

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEADING car insurer Standard Insurance Co. Inc. will push through with its plan to list P200 million worth of shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange by September this year.

Standard said in a statement that it appointed SB Capital, the investment banking arm of Security Bank, to underwrite the initial public offering, which is equivalent to 20 percent of its outstanding shares.

The car insurance firm increased its paid-up capital to P500 million as of the end of last year, considered the highest in the industry, and posted a net worth of P832 million.

Total assets stood at P2.116 billion, an increase of 3 percent from the previous year's level of P2.049 billion.

"The projected proceeds at P200 million will further increase the company's capital to P700 million, again the highest in the industry, and will be primarily used for investment activities," the company said.

The size of the IPO, however, was smaller than the original plan of between P500 million and P1 billion.

The company has long prepared itself to list on the PSE in order to raise funds for further expansion, but it was not able to immediately pursue the project because of the weakness in the market.

Standard currently generates 60 percent of its businesses from motorcar insurance, 30 percent from fire insurance and 10 percent from marine and personal insurance.

Standard Insurance reported that its operating profit after tax increased to P144 million in 2001 against P5.7 million the previous year on the back of an 18-percent surge in net premiums.

Net income, however, dropped by 9 percent to P89 million from P98 million "due to lower investment income, higher interest cost and higher provisioning for deferred income tax."

But the insurer said it maintained its efficiency in claims servicing with its claims payable ending at P10.5 million last year against P427 million in paid claims.

"This is still the lowest among the large non-life insurance companies and represents an average backlog of six working days," Standard said.

On the fire and marine insurance lines, the company said its treaties with its international reinsurance were renewed during the first quarter this year.

Standard Insurance is owned by the Echauz family, which also controls publicly listed Centro Escolar University.

Energy sector faces . . .

From page B6

after the passage of the law. There are a lot of preconditions, like there should be a WESM first and then we have to have the power rates unbundled. We also have to remove cross subsidies among consumers. The toughest condition is that we have to sell at least 70 percent of the installed capacity of Napocor plants in Luzon and the Visayas.

Q: What about environmental concerns in the sector?

A: That's our next step, the "clean and green" program. We can give subsidy to the development and use of geothermal or wind energy because they use clean fuel. We can, for example, require the distribution companies to buy a certain percentage of their requirements from clean energy sources or we can give priority dispatch to generators using geothermal and wind.

Geothermal is something we should all be proud of. We're the second largest geothermal power producer in the world. The largest is the United States, but we're only about 70 megawatts lower that means we can overtake it in a couple of years.

Q: Of all these indigenous power, which ones should we use more or are cheaper to use?

A: That would be geothermal. We actually have the highest consumption of geothermal energy in the world. Geothermal power in the US represents only a percent of their total energy mix.

Also, we have enough supply of this. The biggest geothermal field in the world is in Leyte. If you look at a map of the Philippines, you will notice a belt of volcanic systems. That is the source of geothermal power. It is clean because this is water being heated by magma and it is sustainable—it goes to the surface, we use it, and we reinject it to where it came from.

However, to develop and sustain our geothermal potential, we have to have watersheds, green areas. Without the forests, geothermal energy will not be sustainable.

We also have huge potential in hydropower. It is very good in Mindanao, Antique and others. We can develop another 1,300 megawatts of hydropower generating capacity.

Q: What are the chances of getting Transco privatized? Why do we need to sell it?

A: If we successfully privatize Transco, it'll be the largest privatization to be done in the Philippines. It's valued at about $2 billion.

Why is Transco so valuable? All electricity in the country would pass through its transmission system so it's a monopoly. We need to sell Transco because it's a huge burden on the national government. We need to invest $250 million each year for the next five years in putting up the necessary facilities and in maintaining the existing ones.

We are trying to get Transco out of the national burden and encourage the improvement in the system. It's a decent transmission system but it needs improvement to prevent the system-wide blackout in Luzon like what we had recently and the occasional ones in Mindanao.

We need to improve the system's reliability and we need investments there. But it has to be a monopoly because you cannot have more than one of that system

We need to privatize it first before the power plants. It's like when you set up a mall, retail shops will go to a mall only if they know who's the developer of that. Whoever will be the operator of Transco will determine the possible buyers of the generating companies. But no owner of a generating company could own a piece of Transco.

Q: Are there investors interested in buying these plants?

A: There are many prospective investors. Some probably like to buy plants using certain fuel types. The hydro plants in Mindanao, however, will likely stay with Napocor for another 10 years.

Hopefully, we can start selling the assets in Luzon and Visayas by the end of the year. What we are going to do is to hold auctions for the plants every six weeks or so.

Q: The government's arrangements with the independent power producers have been undergoing scrutiny these days because of PPAs charged to consumers and the stranded costs arising from these arrangements. Can you tell us how these additional costs came about and how the government intends to address the PPA problem?

A: In contracts entered into by the government and the IPPs, the government had committed to buy a fixed percentage of the producers' output under a take or pay arrangement. However, not all of the committed output is sold, the part that is not sold but is still being paid by Napocor is called the stranded cost. For example, Napocor committed to buy from an IPP 80 percent of its production but it was able to sell only 30 percent of which. The amount paid for the 50 percent that it was not able to sell is the stranded cost.

In 2000, that's about $650 million and it was being passed on to consumers. The government's plan is to take out a huge part of it and have that part refinanced. This is to reduce the cost passed on to consumers. We will put in the money and impose consumers a lower universal charge of 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour, instead of the more than P1 passed on to them, over the next 20 years. We take out $300 million from the entire stranded cost and leave only $350 million to be passed on to consumers. That will bring relief to all of us because we're all complaining about the high cost of power.

Q: Aren't we going to renegotiate what have been termed as "onerous" terms of these agreements?

A: Yes, we're gonna renegotiate the IPP contracts but that would take time. In the meantime, the people cannot wait so we're proposing this, the refinancing of a huge part of the stranded cost.

Cell Digitel . . .

From page B5

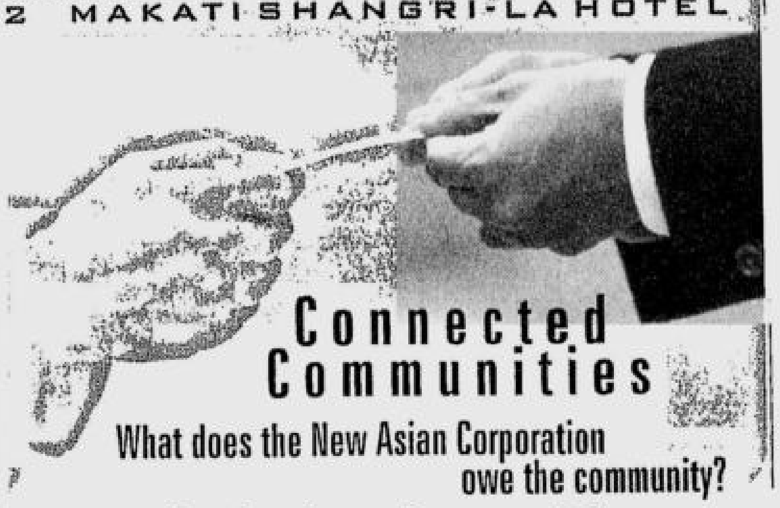
ers barely left the ground and flew only a short distance, but the possibility of flight was confirmed, and now we have airplanes that are supersonic, and shuttles that fly regularly to the space station. My main objection is that the theory has no definite values attached to each wave, and that there is no relationship whatsoever to human behavior.

There is more to come next week so do not send your comments yet to mrbearbull@hotmail.com. Incidentally, the word "down" is never used in this country when referring to the stock market. Analysts always say that the market is overbought and will consolidate, when they mean correct or fall. In Tektite, there are two elevators. One says UP and the other says CONSOLIDATING, all the way down to the basement.

Management Association of the Philippines and BayanTrade present
MAP INTERNATIONAL CEO CONFERENCE
JUNE 19, 2002 MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL

The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), in association with BayanTrade, will conduct its prestigious annual management conference June 19, 2002. The conference will be attended exclusively by CEOs and other C-level executives, and has as its focus three central issues. The first of these issues is leadership. What kinds of leaders are required to build Asia's future industry champions? The second issue is the enterprise itself. What qualities will industry-leading enterprises exhibit? The third issue is community, an issue championed by BayanTrade, which builds and connects online communities. What will be the nature of the relationship between the enterprise and the various elements of the ecosystem in which it operates?

Each of these issues will be discussed from three perspectives: competence, character, and contribution in five panels composed of world-class international and local speakers and two plenary sessions.



Connected Communities
What does the New Asian Corporation owe the community?
How does it serve its community?

PANEL FOUR
REACHING OUT: SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE NEW ASIAN CORPORATION

"Reaching Out: Social Responsibility and The New Asian Corporation," zeroes in on the community issue and will dissect issues, such as what the New Asian Corporation owes the community, and how it serves it. Among the issues to be discussed are community building and governance, and private-public sector collaboration to surface during the panel discussion.

MODERATOR:
Michael Alan Hamlin, Managing Director, Team Asia
PANELISTS:
Michael Vatikiotis, Editor, Far Eastern Economic Review
Victoria P. Garchitorena, President, Ayala Foundation
Gina Lopez, Managing Director, ABS-CBN Foundation

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ROBERT S. KAPLAN
AUTHOR OF THE BALANCED SCORECARD
In his recently released book, *The Strategy-Focused Organization: How Balanced Scorecard Companies Thrive in the New Business Environment* (co-authored with David Norton), Robert Kaplan articulates the key principles required to build an organization that can achieve breakthrough, sustainable performance improvements. He publishes regularly in the *Harvard Business Review* and his seminal, award-winning books include *The Balanced Scorecard and Cost & Effect*. Prof. Kaplan will deliver the opening and closing keynote presentations.

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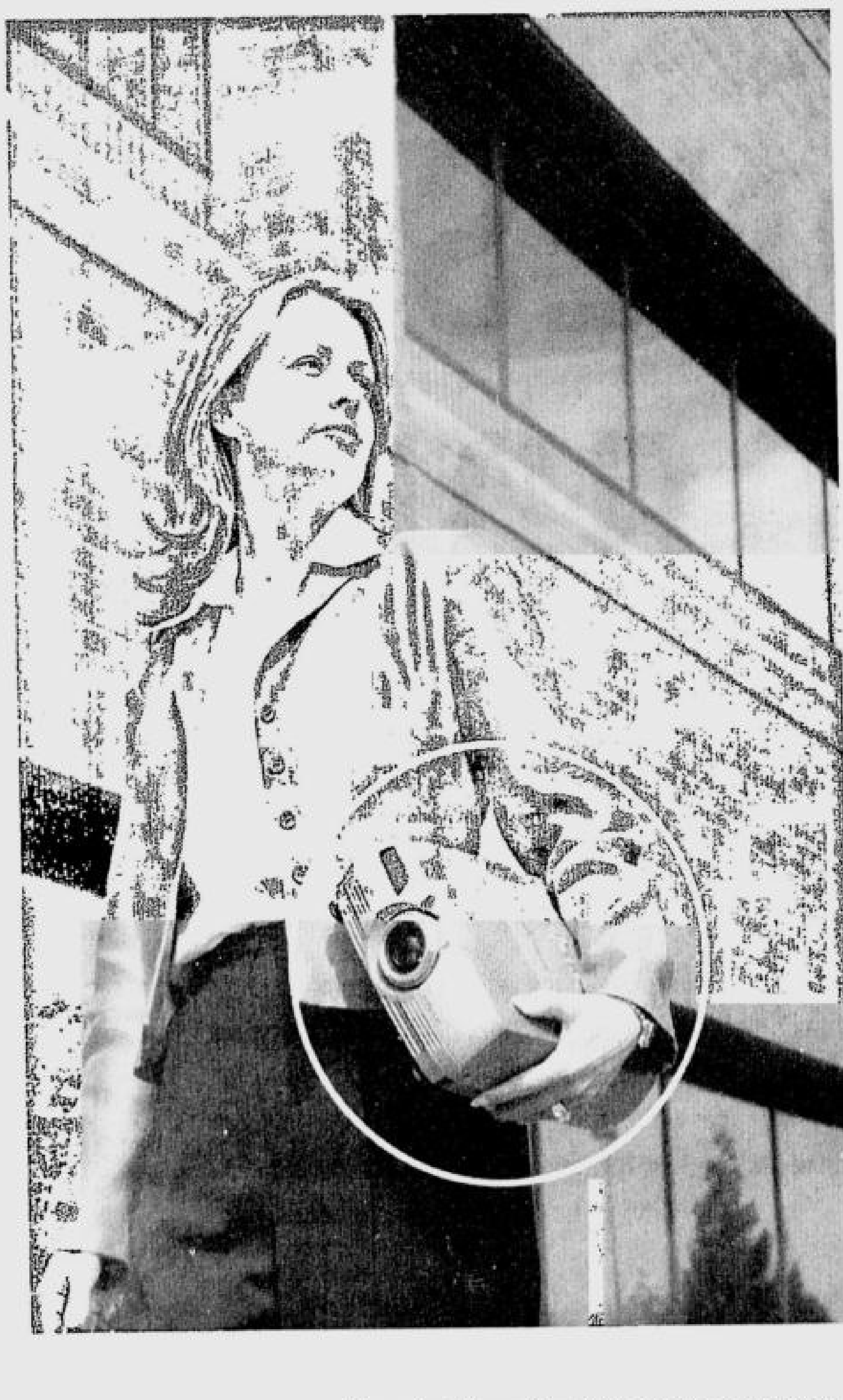

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Nissan to start assembly of Serena QR-V in 2003

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NISSAN Motor Philippines Inc. will start assembling the Nissan Serena QR-V at its Laguna plant next year in line with the Nissan Motor group's consolidation of its subsidiaries in the region with the start of the Asean Free Trade Area.

NMPI vice president for corporate planning Valentin de Leon said Nissan Motors has yet to determine where to establish its manufacturing base for each of its regional models—the Sentra, Cefiro and QR-V.

De Leon said that as far as the Philippine business unit was concerned, it would continue its assembly of completely-knocked down units even with the start of Afta.

"We believe that CKD assembly in the country would remain viable even with Afta although we might focus on just one or two models," De Leon said.

Duties on completely built up units from the region would be reduced from 30 percent to 5 percent by next year with the start of Afta, which would put their tariffs at par with duties on CKDs.

Some sectors have raised concerns that the implementation of Afta would lead to closures of vehicle factories as assemblers go full time into CBUs.

Although NMPI is controlled by Taiwan's Yulon group, De Leon said it would have to comply with Nissan Motor's overall production and marketing strategy for Asean.

NMPI's move to locally assemble the QR-V was hinged on the resolution of its lingering labor problem.

NMPI had to close down its plant for a month last year due to a labor strike, which triggered speculations that it would just bring in CBU units from its Taiwan plant.

NMPI is also keen on expanding its current product line of passenger cars, pickups, vans to include sport utility vehicles by next year as it gears up for the market's full recovery in 2005.

SEC slams PCD for refusal to take partial blame for BW stock scandal

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has censured the Philippine Central Depository for its refusal to accept partial blame for the BW Resources stock fraud scandal that rocked the local stock exchange two years ago.

SEC market regulation director Jose Aquino said the SEC took exception to the claim of PCD that it was the users, and not the PCD's electronic trade facility, that led to alleged price manipulation of the shares of BW Resources Corp.

"While it is indeed true that the PCD's automated backup files were instrumental in providing regulators with the necessary data in the BW investigation, there is no arguing that the provision of said data came after the fact, that is, after the incident had already happened," Aquino said in a letter to PCD president Nellie Dagdag.

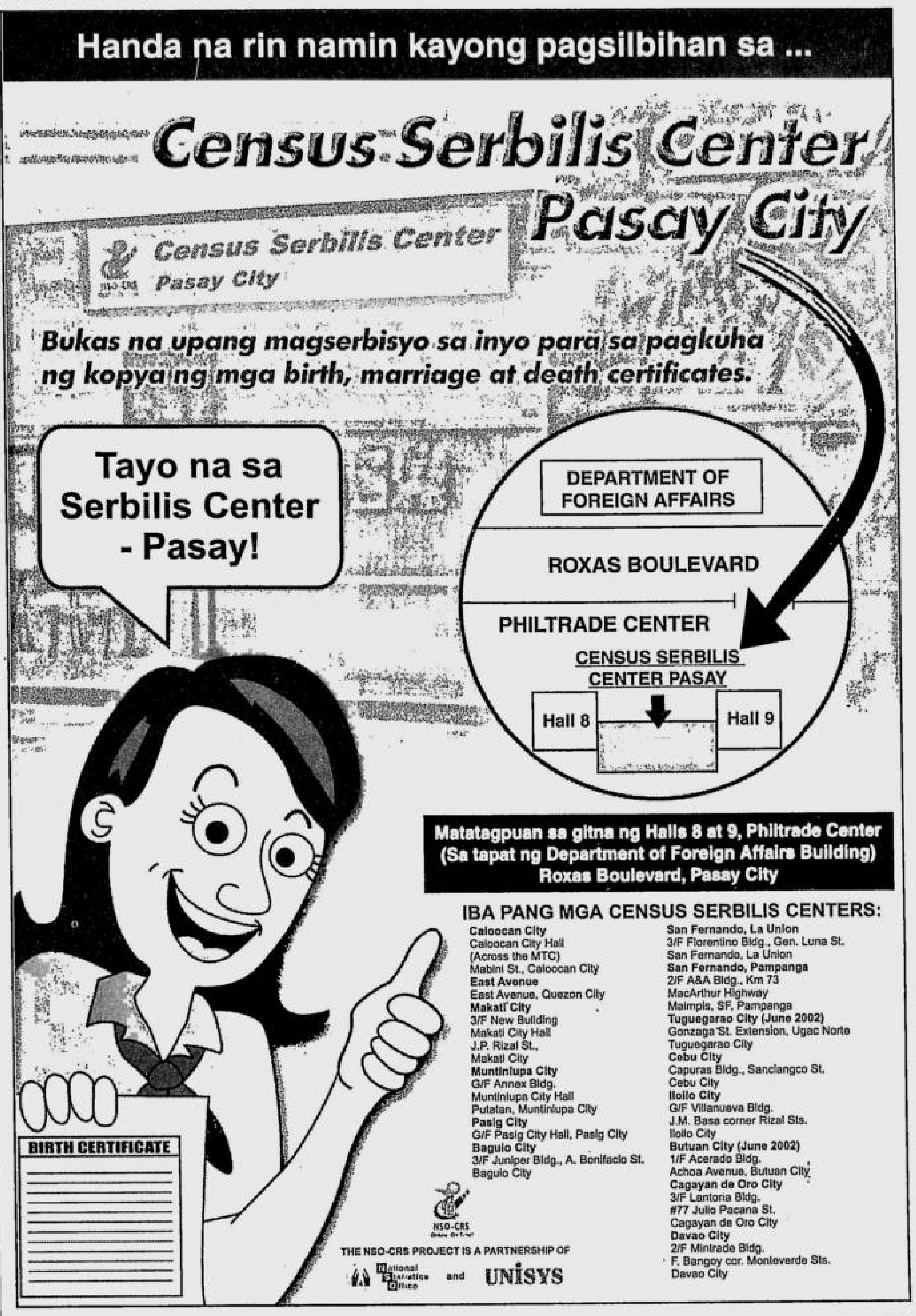
The SEC earlier called on the PCD and the Philippine Stock Exchange to upgrade their systems to prevent similar incidents of insider trading and price manipulation.

Dagdag responded by saying that the PCD's EQTRADE facility could not have facilitated the misdeeds in the trading and price manipulation of BW shares.

She instead blamed the users of the facility and pointed out that the automated backup files of EQTRADE transactions helped regulators in the investigation of stock brokerage firms and individuals charged with jacking up stock prices of BW Resources.

Aquino, however, said that the high volume of trade of BW Resources shares should not have gone unnoticed.

SEC/ B10



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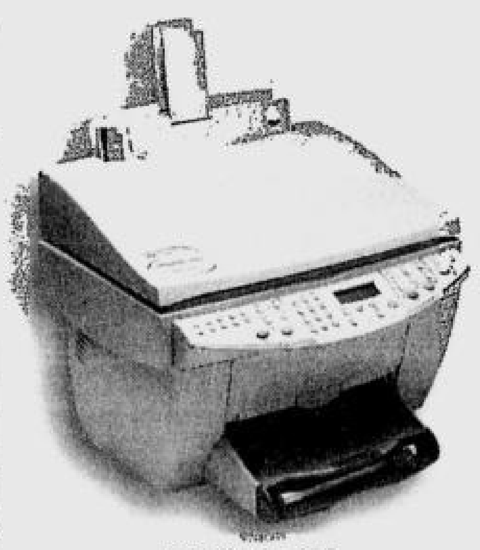

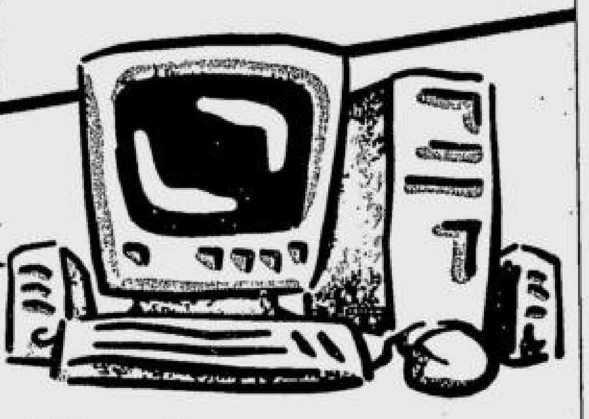
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Gov't to block bank efforts to jack up treasury yields

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is determined to reject high bids today and block the efforts of banks to push treasury bill yields up to convince the fixed-income market that it is not desperate for cash.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said in separate interviews that rejection of unreasonable bids was a serious option.

"The market will probably drive rates higher, but we are also prepared to reject unreasonable bids because the government is cognizant that there is excess liquidity in the market, and banks investment options are also limited," said Edeza.

"We will reject it if they try to bring it up," said Camacho.

Traders said today's bids would bring up the government's cost of borrowing by about 50 basis points to a percentage point across three tenors, including the 91-day treasuries.

During the previous auction, the treasury bill yield rose by 18.8 basis points to 4.569 percent, while the rates for the six-month and one-day treasuries went up by 32.8 basis points and 57.1 basis points to 5.344 percent and 5.707 percent.

The market believes that the government needs more money than it will care to admit, according to an analyst.

The budget deficit as of April swelled to P82.964 billion, already 64 percent of the P130-billion full-year target.

Edeza said the government, as it did last week, would continue look for other sources of money should the local fixed-income market insist on driving rates up.

"If the market is misbehaving, then we should look to the international market where we could get cheaper rates," he said.

The government raised $300 million (about P15 billion) from the seven-year global bonds market last week to fill out financing gaps caused by recent rejections made by the Treasury.

The Treasury rejected in full bids for three-year bonds last week when offers rose to a range of 10.5 to 12 percent when the going rate was only about 9.4 percent.

The treasurer said the part of the market's speculation focused on a bigger borrowing requirement set out by the government for the third quarter.

SEC, Indonesian counterpart sign cooperation pact

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission and its Indonesian counterpart, the Capital Market Supervisory Agency, signed on Wednesday a landmark memorandum of understanding that established a framework for the reciprocal exchange of information between the two agencies.

In a statement, the SEC said that the MOU covered exchanges of information relating to the administration and enforcement of the signatories' respective securities laws.

It also covers technical assistance and commitment to give investigative support, as permitted by their domestic laws, necessary in protecting investors and maintaining the integrity of the securities markets.

This is the first time that the SEC has signed an MOU with a foreign securities regulator.

The government agency said it looked forward to entering into bilateral arrangements with its counterparts from other countries, which are deemed important in apprehending criminals engaged in securities fraud.

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer has been chosen as the official newsletter of the Management Association of the Philippines' 7th Annual CEO Management Conference to be held on June 19 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Organizers Team Asia president Monette Hamlin and Bayantrade president Carol Carreon formalized the partnership with INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez and corporate relations manager Celine Madamba in a signing ceremony held recently.

Dollar reserves remain stable

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S dollar reserves remained stable at $17.065 billion in May or almost the same as the previous month's $17.083 billion despite the central bank's dollar purchases from the market for debt repayment.

Traders said the BSP had bought huge amount of dollars from the market when the peso was trading at a low 49 to $1 to help temper the peso's recovery.

In March, the GIR reached an all-time high of $17.36 billion because of the huge borrowings of the government during the first quarter.

The central bank said the current level of reserves could adequately cover for 5.6 months worth of imports of goods and services and was 3.2 times the amount of the country's debts maturing within one year.

The GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank (mainly US dollars), including gold and special drawing rights, the currency used by the International Monetary Fund.

The reserves increase when foreign borrowings of the government or the private sector come in and decline when foreign debts and imports are paid.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that even with a strong reserves level, the central bank would maintain its GIR target this year at a range of $14 to $15 billion.

"We have this level of GIR because the government had borrowed its requirements in advance," said the central bank chief. This means that in the coming months, the dollar reserves may be depleted as the country settles its maturing obligations.

In January, the GIR was boosted by a $750-million bond issue of the government and a $300-million borrowing of the BSP. In March, the government again borrowed $1 billion from the foreign market.

GOINGS-ON

Affordable ATMs

Channel Solutions Inc. (CSI), a leading IT systems integrator, has made it affordable for rural banks to develop their ATM network by offering an ATM solution based on its own proprietary Millennium ATM Switch System (MASS).

MASS features national network interface capabilities highly suited for rural banking.

CSI together with LBP Leasing Corp., a subsidiary of Land Bank of the Philippines, has made it easy for rural banks to acquire the MASS-based ATM solution through a competitive 2-, 3- or even 4-year lease-to-own facility. CSI managing partner Wally Sandoval said that CSI supported Land Bank's Apex Bank concept where under a single and unified entity, rural banks could establish unified ATM networks.

CSI is part of the Channel Group of Companies (CGC) together with Channel Technologies Inc. and Channel-Tel.

Shell economist on global scenarios

SHELL International Ltd. chief economist Anupam Khanna conducted on Friday a forum on markets and business conditions entitled "People and Connections-Global Scenarios to 2020" at New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati City.

The forum tackled how globalization is shaped by the reactions of people with diverse motivations including powerful and enduring cultural values. It also explored various ways by which vital energy technologies and system may develop in response to consumer needs, security concerns, environmental pressures and regulatory processes.

Asiatrust posts P24M in income

ASIATRUST Bank reported net earnings of P24 million for the quarter ending March 31. This represents a significant increase from P2.37 million registered in the same period last year.

However, the bank's nine-month earnings for the current fiscal year amounting to P27.3 million were 11.7 percent lower than the previous year's P30.9 million.

The bank's total resources by end-March was placed at P8.3 billion, 3.5 percent lower than last year's P8.6 billion. Capital funds amounted to P1.45 billion, also lower than last fiscal year's P1.62 billion.

SEC slams . . .

From page B9

"It is incomprehensible that nobody in your organization had taken notice of the highly abnormal volume of BW transactions that were being facilitated through the EQTRADE facility and that the commission did not receive any report on these EQTRADE transactions during those times," he noted.

Aquino added that the PCD staff should have been more active in monitoring the activities that go through the PCD facilities and in reporting unusual transactions.

In this respect, Aquino said the commission expected the PCD to come up with surveillance and reporting procedures on the activities and transactions that need immediate attention and/or action of the commission.

Meanwhile, Aquino said the commission supports the PCD's twin requests that the commission mandate the use of an investor-level record keeping and settlement process and that the PCD be allowed to accredit custody agents who hold shares on behalf of customers in the PCD system.

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Timing of US Fed rate rise pushed back to September

NEW YORK—Top Wall Street dealers have once again pushed back when they expect official interest rates will rise, saying the slow pace of jobs growth is likely to stay the Federal Reserve's hand a while longer.

A Reuters poll of 22 primary dealers taken on Friday after a disappointing employment report for May found only five dealers now expect a Fed rate increase in August, a sharp move from only a month ago, when 16 were looking for a rate increase in August.

Now, 10 dealers believe the central bank's first monetary tightening, lifting the 1.75 percent short-term rate from four-decade lows, will come in September.

A tepid labor market, scant signs of a revival in business spending and tumbling stock prices that could undermine consumer confidence and eat into investor wealth are raising questions about the pace of recovery.

Those weaknesses were in sharp relief on Friday. The stock market was soft after a rough week and the employment report showed a mediocre 41,000 new jobs were created in May. Most of the gains made in the previous month revised away.

"We need to see triple-digit payroll gains before the Fed begins to think about tightening," said Salomon Smith Barney economist Chris Weigand. *Reuters*

US unemployment down in May

WASHINGTON—The US economic recovery is finally starting to lift the downtrodden labor market—but slowly.

The Labor Department said on Friday that the unemployment rate fell unexpectedly to 5.8 percent in May, bringing it off a 7-1/2 year high of 6 percent hit in April. Analysts had been bracing for higher unemployment.

However, the jobless number—based on Labor's household survey—was rosier than the message from the government's key payrolls series, which showed the economy created only an anemic 41,000 jobs last month.

"The worst times are clearly behind us, and we're heading in the right direction, but we're moving at a disappointingly slow pace," said Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services in Boston.

The payroll softness led investors to conclude the Federal Reserve would be in no hurry to raise interest rates. The conviction that Fed policy would stay steady initially boosted bond prices but they later fell amid profit-taking.

Analysts said there was not enough good job news to prompt an interest-rate rise at the next Fed meeting on June 25 to 26, and some experts thought even August was too soon for a move.

A Reuters poll taken Friday of 22 top Wall Street bond firms found only five dealers expect a Fed rate rise in August, a big change from last month, when 16 forecast an August hike.

Now, 10 dealers believe the first increase in borrowing costs will come in September. The overnight federal funds rate, which influences borrowing costs throughout the economy, now stands at 1.75 percent, a four-decade low.

The May payrolls gain was the biggest since a 75,000 climb in February but it still fell short of the 58,000 increase projected by US economists in a Reuters survey.

The drop in the unemployment rate dovetailed with a report from Labor on Thursday that showed unemployment benefits claims fell to their lowest level in more than a year last week.

Adding to the picture of an improving economy, stocks of goods on US wholesalers' shelves fell in April as sales posted their biggest gain in nearly three years, the Commerce Department said later on Friday. Inventories hit at their leanest level in over 10 years.

And a report from the Fed showed that US consumers pulled out their credit cards in April. The Fed said the amount of consumer credit outstanding rose an unexpectedly large $8.8 billion to a seasonally adjusted $1.698 trillion in April. A gain in revolving debt linked to credit and charge cards boosted the figure.

But even as consumers spend, companies are staying cautious.

In the jobs report, Labor revised previously published data to show that payrolls grew a meager 6,000 in April and fell by 5,000 in March. A month ago, the government said April payroll employment rose by 43,000 and declined 21,000 in March.

"This is telling us that the economy is chugging along and growing but it is not an economy where the Fed needs to aggressively apply the brakes," said Anthony Chan, chief economist at Banc One Investment Advisers in Columbus, Ohio. "This is not a robust recovery." *Reuters*

Argentina sees IMF deal by July despite stalled talks

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Argentine Economy Minister Roberto Lavagna said on Friday he expected the International Monetary Fund to agree to an aid pact by mid-July despite news that negotiations had stalled.

Sources close to the negotiations said in Washington on Thursday that negotiations ran aground after talks by telephone between Lavagna and IMF first deputy managing director Anne Krueger failed to produce enough agreement to send a fund mission.

"The pact will be ready by the end of June or by the middle of July, those are the dates," Lavagna told reporters.

The IMF had hoped to announce it would be sending a mission to Buenos Aires next week to start the ball rolling on negotiating a new loan pact with Argentina.

Before talks stalled, IMF managing director Horst Koehler said he hoped to cement a deal within the 45 days mooted by the Argentine government. But he stressed the fund would not be rushed.

Lavagna and Krueger are due to speak again on Monday.

Sources say the IMF is still not satisfied with a string of economic and political reforms Argentina has made in order to woo aid from the fund. The money is badly needed to ensure Latin America's struggling No. 3 economy will not default on payments to the lender as it did on part of the $140-billion debt pile in January. *Reuters*

Malaysia to ban tobacco ads by July 2003

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia will ban all advertisements by tobacco companies and their sponsorships of any kind of activity by July 2003, reports said Saturday.

The move was in line with the World Health Organization's efforts to institute a global law to regulate tobacco, health ministry director general Mohamad Taha Arif was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times.

He criticized Malaysian television stations for inserting tobacco advertisements while airing the ongoing football World Cup finals.

"It is unfortunate for Malaysians because the World Cup matches they watch are polluted with sponsorship advertisements by the tobacco companies," he said.

"But the government has ordered that its message on the negative effects of smoking be aired on television constantly, especially during prime time."

Mohamad Taha said women smokers were increasing, with a WHO study showing the ratio of female to male smokers among teenagers in Malaysia rising from one to six in 1996, to one to four in 1999. *AFP*

Evergreen leaves stake in Singapore

SINGAPORE—Taiwan shipping giant Evergreen Marine will keep nearly 20 percent of its regional operations in Singapore after moving the bulk of its traffic to Malaysia, a report said Saturday.

Evergreen's decision to switch its Southeast Asian transit hub to the Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) in Malaysia's southern state of Johor dealt a severe blow to Singapore's port operator PSA Corp.

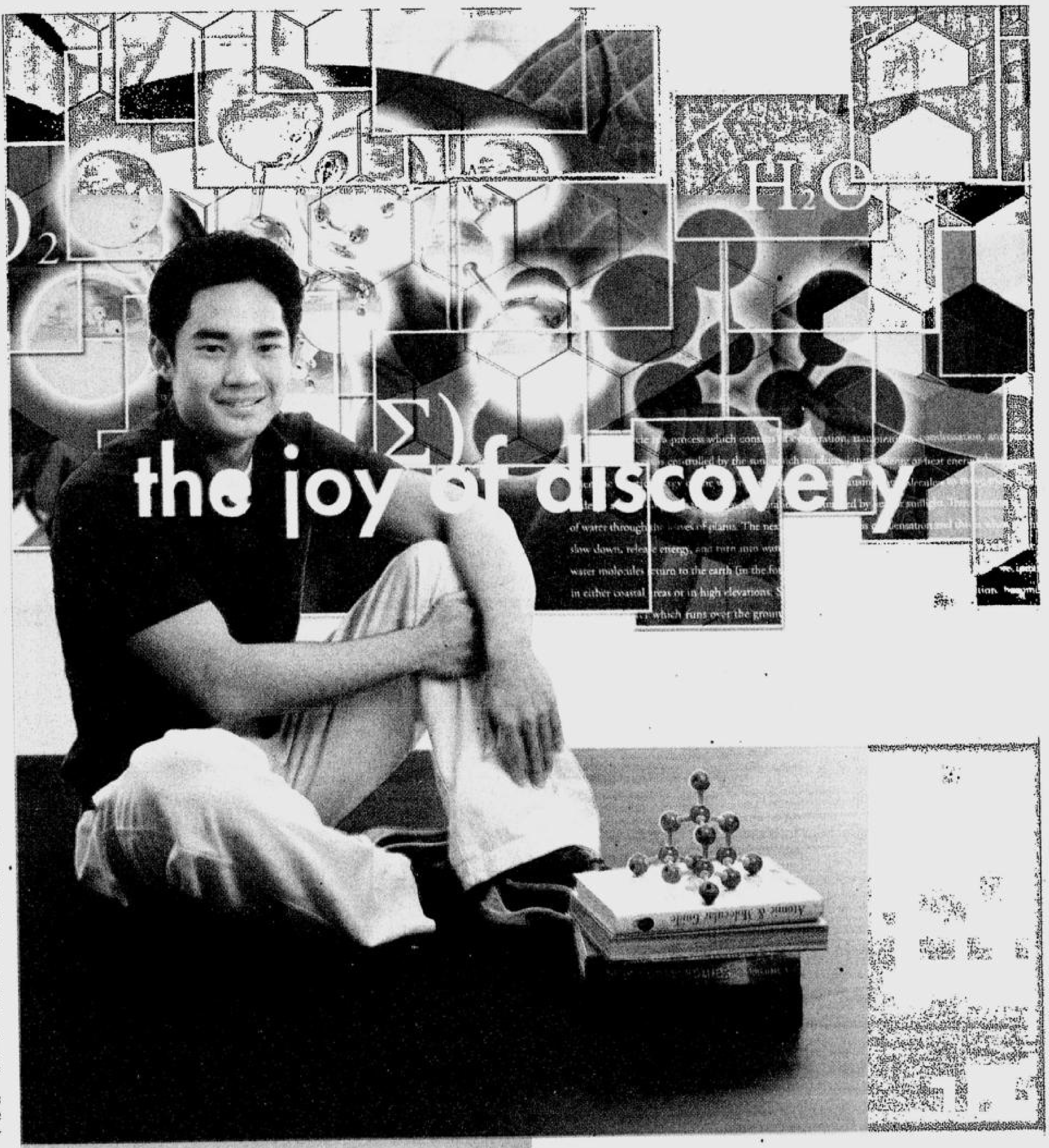
It was the second major loss following the decision last year of Danish line Maersk Sealand to relocate to PTP.

But Evergreen will not completely sever ties with Singapore, the Straits Times reported.

"We still have some joint services with other carriers, so we cannot just move all our services to PTP," Evergreen spokesperson Elysia Chen said.

She said more than 80 percent of the estimated 1.2 million 20-foot equivalent units currently shipped through Singapore would be progressively moved to the Malaysian port from August.

PSA, operator of one of the world's busiest container terminals, has said Evergreen's defection would not affect its earnings. *AFP*



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Sun Life ties up with fitness clubs to boost new campaign

SUN LIFE Financial has tied up with popular fitness centers and sports shops to boost its new marketing campaign called "Fit for the Future."

With the new program, the publicly listed firm brings together the idea of physical and financial fitness. The project poses as an innovative campaign as it aims to revolutionize the way people perceive life insurance.

"It is a new concept in total fitness where both health and wealth concerns are addressed to ensure that our clients get the most out of life," said Alex Narciso, Sun Life Financial's assistant vice president for marketing.

Sun Life Financial, the third largest life insurance company in the Philippines, conveys its message of financial fitness closer to the lifestyle needs of its intended clients through tieups with popular fitness centers and sports shops in 35 various locations.

The Canada-based firm has partnered with Slimmer's World, Fitness First, David's Fitness Center, Galleria Fitness Center, Fitness International, Nike Stadium, Athletes Foot, and Planet Sports. By using the language of physical fitness, Sun Life Financial hopes to promote the concept of being financially fit for the future.

As its initial offering under the "Fit for the Future" program, Sun Life Financial introduced Sun Smartsaver, a US-Dollar-based life insurance policy that matures on the 10th year. Its key features include a hassle-free, one-time premium payment, guaranteed cash payouts at the end of the fourth, sixth, eighth, and 10th years, and an insurance coverage equivalent to 150 percent of the face amount.

Sun Life Financial is a leading international financial services organization committed to providing financial services to individuals throughout their lifetime. It has key interests in life insurance, pre-need and asset management.

The company posted a 15-percent growth in gross premiums, from P5.1 billion in 2000 to P5.8 billion in 2001. It has over 300,000 policy holders nationwide, and is backed by the expertise of 600 employees and over 1,600 agents.

Tracing its roots back to 1871, Sun Life Financial group of companies and partners operate in key markets workdwide including Canada, the United States, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Philippines, Japan, Indonesia, India, Chile and Bermuda.

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POLYMUTAN PLUMBING AT CONSTRUCTION SHOW

Polymutan, an innovative technology from Germany for use in the installation of water systems, is one of the products being featured at the 10th Construction Show Cebu until June 10 at the Cebe Trade Hall, third floor of the SM City Cebu. Sealing the agreement in a handshake with LA Ducut and Company Inc.'s managing director-event organizer Lilibeth D. Abais is exclusive distributor in the Philippines Camp Marketing & Development Inc sales supervisor Dennis Guiraldo. The event is witnessed by Joanne N. de las Alas, LA Ducut and Co.'s project officer, and Dennis Leyran, Camp Marketing & Development's Cebu branch officer in charge. Its official distributor in the Visayas and Mindanao is Phoenix Building System Corp. Polymutan Fusion Weld Pipe Systems are 100-percent made in Germany using only German technology and premium polypropylene virgin plastic from start to finish. It is ideal for a wide range of hot and cold water applications, and costs much less than other fusion weld pipes of comparable quality.

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ROTARY LEADS ALAY LAKAD 2002

Rotary Club International District 3810 and 3830 takes the lead as the chair organization of the national coordinating committee for Alay Lakad 2002, the annual walk-for-a-cause event to be held on Sept. 1 for the benefit of out-of-school youths. Shown is Alay Lakad president Frank Evaristo (center) with (from left) Walk 2002 overall chair former Ambassador Francisco Atayde, District 3810 governor Rosie Go, and District 3830 governor Romy Cruz. Rotary Club has been a staunch partner of the Alay Lakad Foundation in promoting the welfare of the out-of-school youth for years now.

BITS & Clips

'Smackdown' goes to RPN-9

"ALL STAR Professional Wrestling" features the WWF Smackdown on its new timeslot from 11 a.m. to 12 noon every Wednesday and with an afternoon telecast at 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday. On the air for the past 23 years, first at IBC 13 then at ABC 5, "All Star Professional Wrestling" remains the number one television sports and entertainment program in the country. The hard-hitting non-stop TV program features unparalleled wrestling matches, acrobatic stunts, comedy matches and drama. It is produced by the World Wrestling Federation, the recognized leader in sports entertainment for 52 years. Today, it continues to be a strong crowd-drawer, complete with pyrotechnics, special effects, suspense, drama, emotion, lots of action and guest celebrities.

P100,000 prize in 9-ball text promo

IN LINE with the ongoing Motolite 9-Ball World Challenge, Motolite is holding a unique promo for Globe cell phone users. The Motolite Texting promo allows users of Globe Handyphones to win exciting prizes by merely sending text messages. There are two ways to win—through the Motolite Trivia contest or the Motolite Raffle. In the trivia contest, Globe users need to key in "MOTOLITE" to 23201 to register, then text in "MOTOLITE TRIVIA" to join. Participants will answer multiple choice questions on billiards. Participants are then awarded points for every correct or incorrect answer. These points are accumulated until June 11 coinciding with the Motolite 9-Ball World Challenge. The top five participants with the largest points in a day win Nokia 5210 each. In the raffle, participants need to send "MOTOLITE 9BALL" to 23201. Senders are randomly awarded 10, 20 to 30 points by replying with the name of who they think will win the World Challenge. Every 10 points is equivalent to one raffle entry. The winner receives P100,000.

CamelBak, UPM team up for nature

CAMELBAK, the hydration system of choice by today's outdoor enthusiasts, and the University of the Philippines Mountaineers (UPM) recently joined hands for project Talikasan, a monthly open climb that gives greenhorns and experienced climbers the chance to join the UPM in organized climbs. Talikasan also introduces the sport of mountaineering to more outdoor enthusiasts and is a venue for participants to learn more about the environment, especially the mountain and forest communities. Talikasan takes off with an open climb on June 15 and 16 at Mount Daguldol in Batangas, with a pre-climb orientation on June 10, 6:30 p.m. at the National Engineering Center in UP Diliman. For registration and more information, call Jessie Go at 0917-8139385 or Lark Tuano at 240-1302.

Spirits Coyote Bar Malate opens

SPIRITS Coyote Bar, the newest party place in Malate, opens its doors Tuesday, June 11. Located in an old house at the corner of J. Bocobo and Nakpil Streets in Malate, Manila, it's one way of bringing the renowned legacy of the partyplace of Spirit's of Baguio's brand to the country's capital and one of Manila's famous entertainment nightlife districts. Spirits Coyote Bar brings back fun and excitement to the Malate nightlife with its female bartenders performing choreographed numbers a la the movie "Coyote Ugly", a spacious area, varied party music, and an extensive menu. Theme parties, fashion shows, entertainment, company promos and product launches are ideal occasions in Spirits Malate.

Dumex search draws out best in children

THE DUMEX Search for Fitter, Brighter Champions is one early motivation and opportunity for children to show their juvenile prowess minus the pressure. Kids are asked to join in games and exercises that draw out the best in them. When the games start, the children forget they are in competition and they just let their hair down. Children are happy as they play and relate with other kids.

Conceived as a project to let Dumex mommies and their kids enjoy a friendly atmosphere of games and fun, the search is a whole-year activity with competitions held every quarter. Three competitions have already been held with the first one in October 2001, the second in January 2002, the third one April 2002 and the fourth and final competition is to be held this July.

According to Eugene Go, group product manager, "the search is a parent-child venture with the mommies initiating the participation of their children, preparing their kids for the competition and bringing them to competition venues. Parents know that this is a good opportunity and motivation for their children to socialize and learn how to act in public. This is the reason we chose toddlers 1 to 3 years old and pre-school kids 4 to 6 years old to participate in the competition. We are literally opening doors for these kids to discover the big, wonderful world of people."

Go said that Dumex inked an agreement with Mercury Drug, the biggest drugstore chain in the Philippines, to co-sponsor the project. Parents are required to submit proofs of purchase of Dumex milk products from Mercury Drug worth P500 together with their entries, and to drop them in Dumex drop boxes located in participating Mercury Drug stores. Go also said that Dumex is in partnership with The Little Gym, a reputable pre-school organization whose facilitators are experts in drawing out the best in children, to help in the competition. Dumex staff coordinated and ran the whole show with invited child development specialists, pediatricians, and health care professionals to chair the selection process.

Every Dumex competition is a family affair, as children are accompanied by their parents. Winners of these competitions are each given P41,000 worth of home learning educational kits and Dumex products. Every finalist who has passed the pre-competition screening get to win prizes. Each finalist gets over P7,000 worth of Dumex products and a Mercury Drug gift certificate worth P500. Parents and children are treated by Dumex to a hearty lunch after every competition.

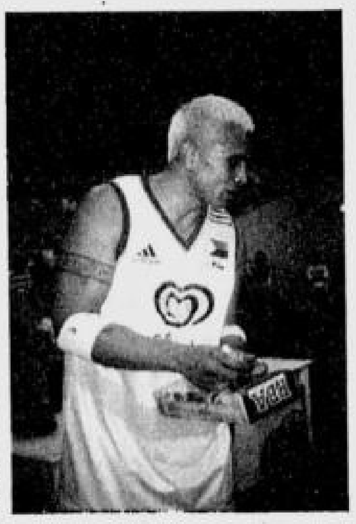
To date, Dumex Toddler champions are Hazel Andrea Maqueda, Llyana Roselin Nochesada and Kyla de Silva.

The Dumex Pre-School champions are Nicole Cruz, Melissa Jane Nolasco and Miguel Aluning.

Interested parties for the July search can send in their entries now.

Product FILES

Building a fortress with 'The Rock'



THE COURT is his stronghold, the goal his most prized possession, every move and every turn is precise and swift, in anticipation of scoring. Asi Taulava is the man to take over if you want to win the game. From Talk 'N Text Phonepals, "The Rock" has been one of the impressive players that have led the team to different conquests.

You can catch Asi "The Rock" Taulava and actually take him home, because Asi now comes in a Collectible Doll—The Asi Taulava Collectible PBA Doll. It is made of soft plastic (for easy movement), wearing Talk 'N Text jersey and even has his own basketball.

Asi Taulava is shown signing his PBA Doll before giving it away to fans. Visit your favorite department stores and toy shops and collect all 10 PBA Collectible Dolls.

Writing book best legacy

THE ATV Speakers Network is conducting a program titled "How to Write and Publish Your Book" on Sunday, June 16 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Topics include the reason for writing a book, getting started, deciding on the subject matter, determining readership, gathering materials, writing clearly, drafting, revising and editing, financing the project, copyright rules and procedures, and marketing the book. For details, call Ophie, Liezl or Josie at 896-8790 or 899-8441.

BEST OF ITALY FROM BACCHUS

Once again, Bacchus International is forming a partnership with Premier Events Plus Group Inc. as it co-presents the World's Food & Trade Expo 2002 from Aug. 2 to 4 at the World Trade Center. Bacchus International is bringing into the event the finest Italian food products in the market, occupying a huge 225 sqm pavilion. Here recently to discuss the partnership was Marisa Avalis Gilardo (third from left), fine Italian food specialist and a consultant in Asia for Lavazza, Fabbri, Ecot, Di Vita, Ardoino, and Longobardi. Also shown are, from left, Joel Pascual, president of Premier Events, Clifford Lichaytoo, executive vice president of Bacchus, and Alex Lichaytoo, president of Bacchus International. Interested participants can call PEPGroup at 436-4711/12, 929-7963/93, or visit www.worldsfoodexpo.com.

World Trade Center
NOV 25-DEC 1
DEC 9-22
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NOV 13-15

BAZAARS FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Shown is the MOA signing between Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment (LIFE), represented by its chair Dr. Alendry P. Caviles Jr. (second from right) and Venus Galiza (left) and Cut Unlimited Inc. event organizers represented by its president Mayose G. Bautista (right) and marketing and promo manager RR Roa-Ledesma (second from left) for a series of benefit bazaars. The Noel Xmas Bazaars will be on Oct. 26 to 27, Nov. 13 to 15, Nov. 23 to 24, and Dec. 7 to 8. For more inquiries and reservations the organizers may be reached at 687-2955, 687-0654, 687-7523 and 687-0604, or e-mail mayose.cut@pacific.net.ph.

CMMA 2002 accepts nominations

THE CATHOLIC Mass Media Awards now accepts nominations after its launch May 20 at the AIM Conference Center, Makati City.

During the event, the CMMA also paid tribute to its first executive director Fr. James Reuter SJ on the occasion of his 86th birthday through the launching of his book "Word in the Street", a compilation of his articles at the Philippine Graphic Magazine. The occasion was started with a Eucharistic Celebration presided by Fr. Reuter.

As a prestigious award-giving body, the CMMA gives recognition to deserving mass media products which best reflect positive Christian values of love for God, country, family, environment, and life.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, the honorary chair and founder of the CMMA, said that such award compels artists and producers to realize their vocation and mission and that they, too, have an important role in the eyes of God.

Fr. Joselito Jopson, the present executive director of the CMMA, stated in his speech at the CMMA 2002 launching that CMMA continues to maintain and promote harmonious relationships with the commercial media. "CMMA will initiate activities inform our Filipino audience and readers about the role mass media plays in molding the very consciousness and values of society. We will do everything that we can to promote values in media," says Fr. Jopson.

The media fields include television, radio, print, advertising, music, cinema, and the Internet. Student productions will also be recognized in the Student CMMA, which runs in its second year.

Nominations are accepted at the fifth floor, 2113 Dominga Building, Pasong Tamo corner De La Rose Streets, Makati City. For inquiries, call 812-1833, 867-4026 and 892-4779. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 5, Friday at 5 p.m.

Doubt and fear keep Wall Street retrenched

NEW YORK—Growing doubts and fears are keeping Wall Street on the defensive, as market-watchers debate whether the recent drubbing of stocks is a prelude to more declines or a "washout" ahead of a fresh bull run.

The Dow Jones industrials fell 3.38 percent last week to end at 9,589.67, while the Standard and Poor's 500 dropped 3.71 percent to 1,027.53.

The Nasdaq composite, dominated by tech firms, fell 4.97 percent to close Friday at 1,535.48.

This marked the worst week for stocks since the end of April.

Although the past week brought positive data in the manufacturing and service economy as well as a modest improvement in the job market, Wall Street was unimpressed and continued to struggle with concerns over far-flung conflicts and domestic corporations.

"The gap between the stock market and the economy grew even wider this week, with all the major indices falling even though the economic news continues to show modest gains," said John Silva, chief economist at Wachovia Securities.

"The weakness in the stock market is not so much that investors doubt the economy is recovering as much as it is that they doubt corporate America in general. The litany of scandals hitting the press recently is just a bit too much for investors to stomach, particularly with so much new supply hitting the market."

Larry Wachtel of Prudential Securities says Wall Street has been dominated by fear, "of festering faraway places, fear of an ongoing tech wreck, fear of a faltering dollar, fear of the next corporate scandal, fear of fear itself."

Confidence was further eroded by the tax evasion indictment of Dennis Kozlowski a day after he resigned as chair of industrial giant Tyco, casting a further cloud over corporate ethics.

Analysts debated whether the market, dragged down to new lows for the year, was in a "capitulation" phase that sends stocks reeling, but washes out speculation and sets the stage for an advance.

"We are watching for signs of climatic action," said Alfred Goldman of AG Edwards. *AFP*

Ex-Andersen accountant moves to anti-fraud unit

NEW YORK—Andersen accountant Toby Bishop was quietly chipping away at a new auditing technique to detect financial fraud when his firm began to collapse around him after admitting to document destruction.

For Bishop, an Englishman who headed Andersen's fraud research group, the irony didn't end there.

He, like thousands of other former Andersen executives, has landed a different job. Bishop, trained as a "forensic" accounting specializing in ferreting out fraud, will head an association of fraud-fighting accountants and attorneys.

But the accountant, an opera fan educated at Oxford University, doesn't find anything out of place about his landing at the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, after spending 20 years at the accounting firm now synonymous with the Enron scandal.

"It wasn't a question of fraud being rampant within the organization," says Bishop. "Andersen collapsed because of an indictment issued by the federal government due to shredding of documents, and that was one decision taken by one person."

His role as an Andersen partner was far from the glare of Enron and botched audits. Bishop was poring over pages of academic research to piece together a new auditing process to sniff out financial shenanigans.

"Detecting financial statement fraud is like detecting cancer in a hospital patient—when the patient gives lies in response to all the doctor's questions," Bishop said in a telephone interview from the association's headquarters in Austin, Texas.

A client's deception makes it difficult to detect fraud, he argued.

"The cancer may show up anyway in diagnostic tests, but sometimes it won't and the doctor's diagnosis will be wrong," he said.

Andersen's case, in particular, highlighted the devastating consequences of a misstep. A wrong decision by an auditor involving alleged fraud, and the whole house of cards collapsed at Andersen.

Adding salt to its wounds was that the venerable Andersen was at the forefront of auditing fraud research, pumping more money and resources into the effort than any of its competitors, Bishop says. But for any firm working in the field, Bishop argues, even the best auditing doesn't catch every fraud.

"The doctor can maximize his odds of detecting the cancer by using as many tests as possible regardless of cost but will still fall short of 100 percent accuracy," said Bishop. "So the problem for auditors now is just one wrong diagnosis can put their entire organization out of business." *Reuters*

Merrill shifts analysts' pay

NEW YORK—Merrill Lynch on Friday announced a new performance-based compensation system for research analysts with the goal of reducing potential conflicts of interest and restoring investor confidence in the firm. The investment bank also announced plans for a new stock rating system intended to be easier for investors to use.

The changes come less than a month after Merrill Lynch, the country's leading brokerage, reached a settlement with New York's attorney general, who accused the company's analysts of misleading investors for personal gain.

Eliot Spitzer said Merrill Lynch's analysts touted shares in companies, so the firm would win highly profitable investment banking business from the same companies.

The settlement required Merrill Lynch to stop rewarding its 700 analysts for helping the firm win investment banking fees for arranging mergers and new stock offerings—and put pressure on other major Wall Street firms to do the same.

The company also agreed to pay a $100-million fine after revelations that Merrill Lynch analysts had privately disparaged stocks they publicly promoted.

The new stock rating system, which reduces the number of ratings to three (buy, neutral, sell) from the previous four ratings system (strong buy, buy, neutral, reduce/sell) will be implemented in September. It was not required under the settlement with Spitzer.

"Our analysts are eager and enthusiastic to do things that help win back the trust of investors," said Robert McCann, senior vice president and head of global securities research.

The new compensation system will base analysts' pay on how accurate they are and how their recommendations benefit investors, among other factors. The firm will use surveys and input from clients to help gauge the latter.

"Investment banking will not have input into analyst compensation," the firm said in a statement. *AP*

Honda to buy Fuji Heavy's auto plant

TOKYO—Japan's Honda Motor Co. Ltd. will buy a car factory in Taiwan from a firm affiliated with its rival Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., a newspaper said Saturday.

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun report came a day after Fuji Heavy, the maker of Subaru cars, said it ended the Taiwanese auto joint venture due to a prolonged economic slump on the island.

Honda plans to purchase the plant for some 10 billion yen ($80 million) to manufacture 20,000 to 30,000 passenger vehicles a year from next year, the business daily said.

Currently, Honda produces Civics, Accords and two other models in Taiwan through a joint venture, Sanyang Industry Co.

Ta Ching Motors Co. Ltd., a joint venture between Fuji Heavy and a Taiwanese motorcycle company, had begun operations in 1989.

The venture, controlled 45 percent by Fuji Heavy, had an annual production capacity of 30,000 vehicles but it had actually turned out just 2,000 units, mostly Subaru Impreza models, a year.

On dissolving the venture, Fuji Heavy said it would set up a new company specializing only in after-sales auto services in Taiwan. *AFP*

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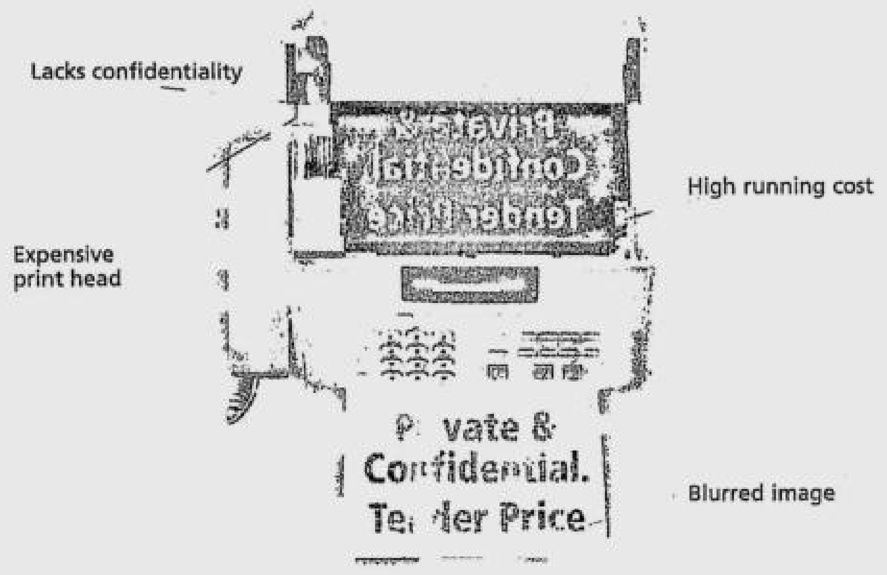

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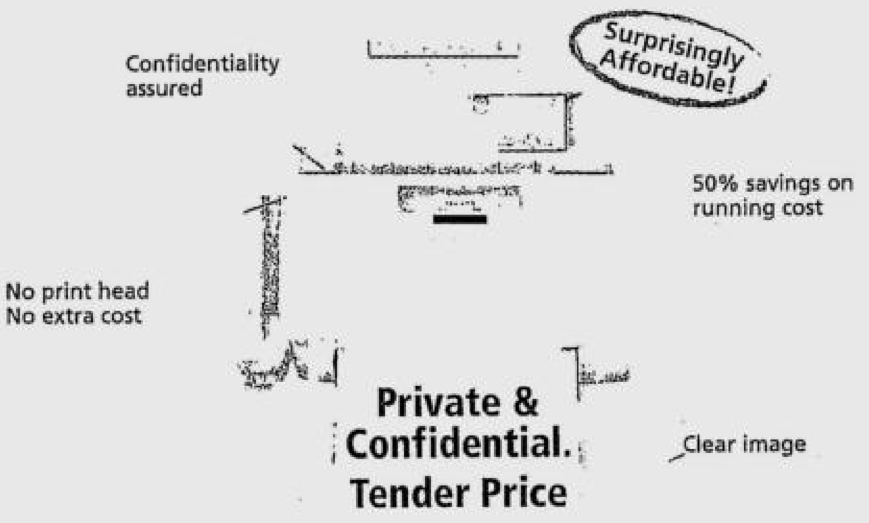
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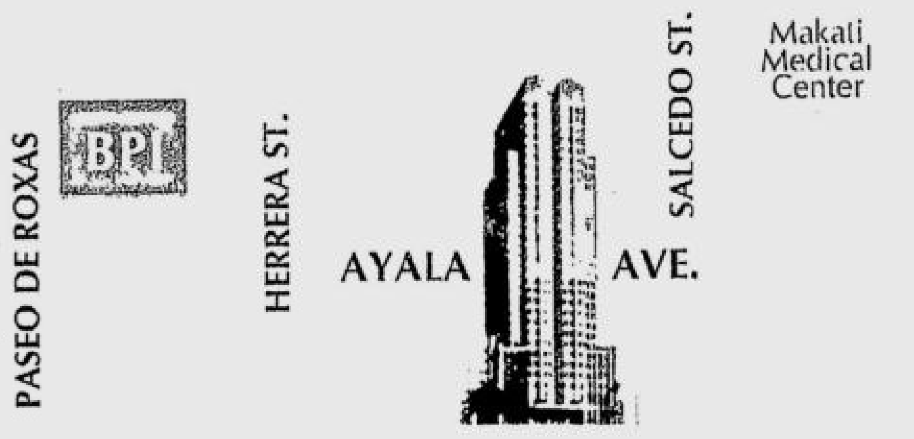

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Bayan-Anihan program firms up five strategies to hasten CARP

UNDER the Arroyo , the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has successfully put in place an implementation framework for the comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP) - the Bayan-Anihan program for rural development.

Bayan-Anihan - derived from the words "bayan," which means people, and "anihan," which means harvesting - represents a united people working together for social equity, agricultural modernization, agri-based industrialization, and empowered community of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

The Bayan-Anihan framework has undergone refinements to ensure fast implementation of CARP and to be in stride with the Arroyo administration's goals of alleviating poverty, attaining food security, and promoting peace in the countryside through sustainable development.

CARP implementation strategies

Under the Bayan-Anihan framework, DAR has firmed up five major strategies for implementing CARP. These are:

(i) Salin-lupa, or the accelerated land transfer and land tenure improvement programs;

(ii) Katarungan, or the swift and fair settlement of agrarian disputes and delivery of agrarian reform justice;

(iii) Bayanihan, or the better delivery of support services to ARBs and the mobilization of ARBs in the task of transforming the agrarian reform communities and zones into progressive farming areas;

(iv) Kaba'yanihan (Konsehong Bayan para sa Anihan), or the institutionalization of partnership - including the system of dialogue, consultation, and joint problem-solving - with various civil society stakeholders in CARp; and (v) Kamalayan, or the raising of awareness of DAR personnel, ARBs, and the general public on the power of agrarian reform to transform society and promote social justice and modernization.

Bayan-Anihan, with its five implementation strategies, is meant to be a joint and unified program of DAR, ARBs and other stakeholders to push CARP as an emancipation weapon for transforming the countryside as a zone of peace and sustainable agro-industrial development.

Braganza rolls palay seedlings as Bernabe Buscayno, the former New People's Army (NPA) chieftain, explains to him how mechanized farming works in his farm in Tarlac.

GMA to address CARP convention

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be keynote speaker and will lead the awarding rites for outstanding agrarian reform stakeholders at the National CARP Convention on June 10 at Expo Pilipino in Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga.

The convention, organized by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) as part of its celebration of the 14th anniversary of the comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP), will take up plans that will carry CARP to its final phase, and will assess the reforms undertaken by DAR to address the remaining problems that continue to hound the program.

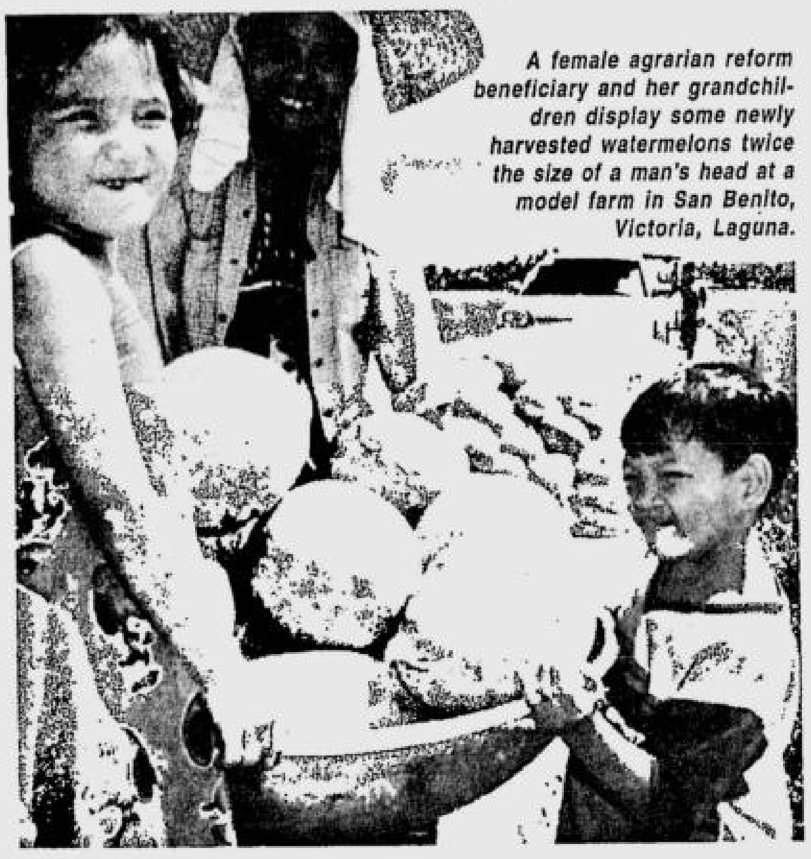
President Arroyo will be appraised on the status of CARP implementation, including the current effort to inventory all CARP landholdings and the achievements under the Bayan-Anihan implementation framework.

She will also be presented the memorandum of agreement to be signed at the Trade Exposition 2002 on June 12 between DAR and the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth). The agreement stipulates the mechanisms for the coverage of agrarian reform beneficiaries under the national health insurance program.

The President will also lead the citation and awarding ceremonies for institutions and individuals who have made outstanding contributions for the successful implementation of CARP.

Among those expected to receive citations or awards are: nine CARP implementing agencies, 18 foreign donors, one ARC; one ARB; one landowner, one people's organization, one non-government organization, four DAR implementers, two gender advocates, two moral recovery program advocates, and two Golden Plow awardees.

DAR Trade Expo to feature CARP's gains in 14 years



A female agrarian reform beneficiary and her grandchildren display some newly harvested watermelons twice the size of a man's head at a model farm in San Benito, Victoria, Laguna.

AGRARIAN reform beneficiaries take the center stage on June 12 when the four-day Trade Exposition 2002, organized by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), opens at the Mega Trade Hall 1, Building B, of SM Mega Mall in Mandaluyong City.

Products produced by ARBs and other exhibits at the trade fair, which coincides with the country's celebration of the 104th Independence Day, will showcase the gains and achievements of the comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP), which marks its 14th anniversary next week.

Dubbed "Strengthening Agrarian Reform and Rural Development: Building Today for Tomorrow," the Trade Exposition 2002 will be graced by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who will keynote the event.

Also invited to deliver messages are Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) president Margarito Teves and former National Food Authority (NFA) administrator Jesus Tanchangco, now president of the Philippine Food Exporters' Organization (Philfoodex).

Landbank and Philfoodex are among the major partners of DAR in organizing the trade fair. Other partners include the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Technical Support for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (TSARRD), a DAR project assisted by the Italian government.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza said the trade fair seeks to stimulate exchange of information between service providers and farmers, increase the general public's awareness on the government's agrarian reform and rural development (ARRD) program, and explore market opportunities for ARBs products and services.

"The event aims to rally support for agriculture as part of the government's bid to meet the challenges of globalization. Support from various sectors should be marshaled to sustain the gains of the government's agrarian reform," he said.

Highlighting the event is the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the DAR and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth). The MOA calls for the provision of affordable health services to ARBs under the national health insurance program of the government.

Foreign donors continue to enhance support for CARP

WITH limited government resources, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) continued to tap the official development assistance (ODA) as a significant source of funding to enhance its delivery of support services to agrarian reform communities (ARCs).

Since 1992, DAR has generated P36.25 billion in funding from bilateral and multilateral donors, which include the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), World Bank, European Union, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the governments of Belgium, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Canada.

Of the total funding generated, 60 percent consisted of loans, 15 percent of grants, and 25 percent of government counterpart. The fund has financed 35 projects, benefiting more than 700 ARCs in 71 provinces. Of these projects, 15 had been completed, 17 are ongoing, and 3 had been approved for implementation this year and next year.

Among the projects that ended in December last year was the P1.35-billion Agrarian Reform Support Project (ARSP), supported by a grant of P875 million from the European Union and a counterpart of P480 million, for a total of P1.35 billion.

Of the 17 ongoing projects, 12 are providing capital assistance to 673 ARCs, while five are focused on providing technical assistance to 575 ARCs. Capital assistance is in the form of infrastructure (roads, bridges, irrigation facilities), and economic and livelihood activities. Technical assistance is in the form of training programs, manpower and equipment support, policy studies, and other activities.

Agrarian Reform Secretary said these foreign-assisted projects have helped a lot in providing basic rural infrastructure, introducing new farm technology, and accessing loans to ARBs, among many others.

DAR, FLAG to train farmers on paralegal

DAR and the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) have agreed to provide farmer-beneficiaries paralegal trainings to that they can respond effectively to threats against their human rights in the course of implementing the comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP).

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza said the paralegal training program is more deeply felt at this time when CARP is on its final phase of implementation - the redistribution of the most contentious private and commercial lands.

He said the paralegal training will enlighten the farmer-beneficiaries about their rights, how to protect them, and ho to make the necessary counter-moves whenever their rights are threatened.

Under the program, the FLAG will take charge in the training of DAR personnel from the legal division, the Bureau of Agrarian Reform Information and Education (BARIE), and Beneficiaries Development and Coordination Division (BDCD).

Braganza forges partnership with 'Captains of Industry'

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza has forged partnership with the "captains of industry" to help farmer-beneficiaries increase their productivity and revitalize the agriculture industry to face the challenges of globalization.

Braganza said a linkage with business leaders is needed to get the business community into agriculture and develop joint enterprises with farmer-beneficiaries in order to sustain the gains of agrarian reform and promote rural development.

"If we are to seriously develop the countryside, the business community must come in and work hand-in-hand with the government in developing the rural economy," Braganza said during a recent meeting with business leaders at the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) central office.

Former Trade Secretary Jose Concepcion Jr. assured Braganza that the business community is with him in his effort to develop the maximum potential of the distributed lands, and said that the DAR's joint venture program for investors and farmer-beneficiaries is on top of the business community agenda.

Besides Concepcion, also present in the meeting were Federation of Philippine Industry (FPI) president Meneleo Carlos, his predecessor Antonio Garcia, FPI secretary-general Joseph Francia, Philippine Association of Supermarkets Inc. (PASI) president Jose Albert, and Filipino Inventors Society (FIS) president Bormeo Modanza.

Others were Arsenio Tanco, chief executive officer of Manila Bay Spinning Mills; Clara Lapuz, president of Marigold Commodities; Manny Ching, chairman of Crystal Rubber Manufacturing Corp.; and Rolando Vashwani, economic analyst.

Braganza said the meeting was meant to get business leaders involved in the government's sustainable rural development program, which is anchored on promoting the advancement of agrarian reform communities (ARCs) through what he called the "tangkilikan system."

ARCs are clusters of barangays where land distributed has been substantially completed and farmer-beneficiaries have been formally organized to avail themselves of support services and to undertake farm-based entrepreneurial projects.

"The key to promoting the growth of our ARCs is for the business community to invest in agriculture and extend their expertise to our farmer-beneficiaries, who will in return provide the business community a steady supply of agricultural products for food processing and handicraft products for marketing," Braganza said.

"This way both parties will gain from each other and will boost the competitiveness of farmer-beneficiaries and of the entire agriculture sector. This strategy complements the Bayan-Anihan framework of the DAR," he added.

DAR confident of repeating last year's performance

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza said his department is confident of repeating its performance last year, when it exceeded the land distribution target of 100,000 hectares set by the Arroyo administration.

Braganza said the pace of land acquisition in the regions has not slackened. "The field personnel are sustaining the momentum we have achieved last year, which resulted in the distribution of 109,661 hectares to some 57,000 farmer-beneficiaries," he said.

He further said that one reason for his optimism is the improved performance of regions that were not performing in the previous years. "They not only performed well, they exceeded their targets last year, and I think they will continue the good work this year," he said.

He said that Western Visayas, which include the problematic provinces of Negros, ranked third among the regions in terms of number of hectares distributed last year. The region distributed 12,420 hectares.

Bicol region, which was also classified as "problematic," ranked fifth with 9,908 hectares of land distributed.

Other top performing regions include Central Mindanao (15,570 hectares), Eastern Visayas (13,396 hectares), and Southern Mindanao (10,838 hectares).

Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo looks on as Sec. Braganza shakes hands with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo during last year's celebration of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law. DAR has been cited for exceeding the administration's land distribution target of 100,000 hectares.

On performance per province, Negros Occidental, which was considered a bastion of landowner resistance against the comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP), topped the list for distributing 7,416 hectares.

Other top performing provinces include Sultan Kudarat (7,147 hectares), Isabela (6,840 hectares), Cotabato (4,930 hectares), and Negros Oriental (3,938 hectares).

DAR mulls creation of Bayan-Anihan agrarian reform zones

A NEW TACT in delivering support services to farmer-beneficiaries is now under study by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). It is called Bayan-Anihan Agrarian Reform zones (BAR zones), patterned after the agrarian reform community (ARC) concept developed in 1993.

The idea of a BAR zone is to allow support services to reach not only farmer-beneficiaries inside the ARCs but also those in non-ARCs. Thus, both ARCs and non-ARCs can be covered in a BAR zone.

A BAR zone will serve as a convergence area for CARP-related planning and operations of DAR, other CARP-implementing agencies, local government units (LGUs), the private sector, non-government organizations, and people's organizations.

Within the BAR Zone framework, DAR will still lead in the provision of support services - such as basic rural infrastructure, institutional strengthening and technical assistance - to farmer-beneficiaries, but within a delineated area identified through mapping.

In mapping, map overlays are superimposed on a municipal or provincial map to determine the boundaries of the proposed BAR zone within a province. Map overlays may include (i) agricultural area, land-use area, and area of major crops; (ii) CARP-covered areas; (iii) political boundaries of congressional districts; and (iv) location of ARCs.

The BAR zone strategy involves the development of integrated models to hasten the transformation of ARCs and outlying areas into viable agro-industrial zones.

The BAR zone is a holistic approach where all government line agencies are rallied to work out a development strategy for CARP-covered areas. The strategy will be tied up with the municipal and provincial development plans and programs, all geared toward reducing inequality in the distribution of incomes and urban-rural imbalances in economic opportunities.

Ultimately, the aim of BAR zone is to elevate ARCs and adjacent areas to a higher level of development, which would result in improved farm productivity and increased household income.

Mga tunay na damdamin ukol sa agrarian reform

"Maraming salamat sa DAR at patuloy nila kaming sinusuportahan. Patuloy nila kaming binibigyan ng tamang kaalaman at pasilidad sa pagtatanim. Kumpara noon, ang laki na ng pagbabago sa aming lugar at nakikita ko na darating ang araw na asensado na ang lahat ng tao dito sa amin.

ODETTE MUROS
San Ildefonso, Bulacan

"Dati nangungupahan lang kaming mag-anak sa lupang tinataniman namin. Ngunit nang dumating ang DAR, kaming mag-asawa ay nabigyan ng sariling lupa at ngayon naman ang aming mga anak ay mayroon na ring sariling lupa."

RHODORA EGAMINO
San Ildefonso, Bulacan

"Marami pong naitulong ang DAR sa aming pamayanan. Binigyan nila kami ng mga pasilidad, farm-to-market road at sinuportahan sa aming pagsasaka. Hindi lang lang pagtatanim nila kami tinuruan, malaki na rin ang kaalaman naming sa ibang bagay tulad ng poultry at piggery. Higit sa lahat, napagkaisa ng DAR ang mga tao dito.

DIOSCORO DUDAS
San Ildefonso, Bulacan

"Dati sa dagat ang pinagkukunan ng kabuhayan namin at mahirap ang pamumuhay noon. Ngunit noong 1996, nabiyayaan kami ng DAR ng lupa at dito nagsimulang guminhawa ang takbo ng buhay namin. Nagtanim kami dito ng mga mangga, saging at iba pang pananim. Nakapagtayo din kami ng poultry, at sa pamamagitan pa rin ng DAR, mas gumaang ang trabaho at mas malaki ang kita dahil sa makabagong teknolohiyang ibinahagi nila sa amin."

ELVIRA TAMAYO
Balanga, Bataan

"Nang dahil sa DAR lalong nagkaisa at napagtibay ang samahan ng mga magsasaka dito sa aming komunidad. Ang pagkakaisang ito ay nakamit namin dahil sa pagtatatag ng kooperatiba upang sama-sama naming mapaunlad ang aming barangay. Ang DAR ay nagpagawa rin ng protection dike at farm-to-market road, nagbigay ng mga seminars, trainings at mga makabagong teknolohiya para sa bukid upang sama-sama naming matamasa ang pag-unlad."

RANILIO MAITEM
San Francisco, S. Leyte

"Nang tumulong ang DAR unti-unti naming natutuhan ang mga makabagong kaalaman sa pagtatanim tulad ng ng tamang pataba at nagkaroon rin kami ng mga de-motor na kagamitan. Nabigyan kami ng sariling lupa na pagtataniman at nakapagtatag din kami ng kooperatiba na kung saan nakapagpapautang kami ng pera at mga gamit pansakahan tulad ng abono."
"Salamat sa DAR, mas malaki na ngayon ang aming mga ani at wala pakaming kahati sa sa kita. Mas malaki na ang oportunidad upang gumanda ang aming hinaharap at makamit ang tagumpay."

EMILIANO BATINES
Sta. Catalina, Dumaguete
Negros Oriental

"Ang lupa ko po ay may 1.26 ektarya na tinataniman ko ng mga saging, pinya at tubo. May alaga din akong inahing baboy na proyekto galing sa SARDIC. Dahil dito sa DAR nakapagtatag kami ng kooperatiba at tinutulungan kaming magkaroon ng bagong kaalaman sa pagtatanim upang masiguro naming mapagtapos ang aming mga anak at makaahon sa kahirapan."

ALFREDO BATISTA
Farmer Cooperator
Sto. Tomas ARC, Passi Iloilo

"Salamat po sa DAR, ADB at LGU sa pagtulong sa amin upang magkaroon ng bagong kaalaman sa pagtatanim. Sa ngayon, mayroon kaming proyekto na 'communal farming' at mayroon akong tanim na mga gulay sa aking halamanan. Dahil dito mayroon na kaming pinagkakakitaan pati na rinang aking aking mga anak."

MARLYN LAGDAMEO
President
Women's Welfare Council/
Farmer Cooperative
Sto. Tomas ARC, Passi Iloilo

"Tumaas ang produksyon namin simula ng magbuo ang DAR ng Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) sa aming barangay. Ito ay dahil sa financial assistance na ibinibigay nila at naiwasan namin ang pangungutang sa mga kapitalista na mataas magpatubo, mga tamang paraan, pasilidad at makabagong teknolohiya sa pagtatanim upang maging masagana ang ani at anf pagpapagawa ng farm to market roads upang madali naming madala ang mga ani sa pamilihan."

NARCISO EMPEYNADO
Brgy. Manga, San Isidro,
Nueva Ecija

"Dati nangungupahan lamang kami at ang aming kita sa ani ay pambayad lang sa upa at mga utang kaya kakaunti lang ang natitirang kita ng aming ani. Dahil sa apat na ektaryang lupa na ibinahagi sa amin ng DAR at sa walang sawang suporta nila, kumikita na kami ngayon ng P 120,000 tuwing anihan."

NILDA DESUYO
Sanghan, Agusan del Sur

"Pinagmamalaki ko ang aking pagiging magsasaka dahil sa amin umaasa ang ihahain sa mesa ng bayan at ako ay nagpapasalamat sa DAR dahil sinusubaybayan nila kami, tinuturuan ng makabagong pamamaraan sa pagtatanim, at tinutulungan sa pinansiyal sa pamamagitan ng pakikipag-ugnayan sa ibang ahensiya at kooperatiba. Dahil sa mga tulong na ito, tatlong anak ko na ang nagsipagtapos sa kolehiyo bilang *Computer Science, Civil Engineer* at *Electronics and Communication Engineer* at ang iba pang tatlo ay nag-aaral ng *Education, Commerce* at *grade 6.* "

JOVITO MECENA
San Benito, Victoria, Laguna

"Malaki ang aking pasalamat sa DAR dahil napagkaisa nito ang aming komunidad. Ito ay nagsimula nang sama-sama nila kaming turuan ng mga makabagong pamamaraan sa pagtatanim at magtayo kami ng kooperatiba kung saan natutuhan namin ang kahalagahan ng pagkakaisa upang gapiin ang aming mga problema sa pagtatanim. Hindi lang sa paglutas ng problema kami sama-sama kundi sa kaginhawahan din. Kaginhawahang dulot ng makabagong pasilidad, farm-to-market road at masaganang kita nas itinulong ng DAR."

RENATO LOZADA
San Ildefonso, Bulacan

"Hindi lang lupa ang kanilang ibinigay, gumawa din sila ng drip-irrigation sa aming komunidad, nagturo ng makabagong teknolohiya sa pananim at nagbigay ng magagandang binhi. Kung hindi dahil sa DAR maaaring hirap pa rin kami ngayon sa pamumuhay at nagtitiis sa mas mabigat na trabaho."

ROMULO ARANGEL
Balanga, Bataan

"Ako po ay nagpapasalamat sa DAR sa mga binigay nilang tulong tulad ng lakbay-aral at demo-farm kung saan nadagdagan ang aming kaalaman ng mga makabagong teknolohiya sa pagtatanim at mga pinansiyal na tulong sa aming komunidad na nagkakahalaga ng humigit-kumulang P 39 million at pagpapagawa ng farm-to-market road."

AVELINO SOBREDILLO
Cooperative Chairman
Sto. Tomas ARC, Passi Iloilo

"Binigyan kami ng kapital para sa patubig at nagpagawa din ng farm-to-market road upang hindi na kami mahirapan sa pagdala ng aming mga ani sa pamilihan. Nagbigay din sila ng solar-dryer at post-harvest facilities upang pag-imbakan ng aming mga ani. Nagkaroon din kami ng kooperatiba at tinuruan din kami ng mga bagong kaalaman at teknolohiya sa pagtatanim."
"Akala ko hindi na darating ang araw na giginhawa kami, pero dahil sa DAR natupad namin ang aming minimithi."

SATURNINO SALAVEDRA JR.
San Francisco, S. Leyte

"Alam ko na matutupad ang aking pangarap na maiahon ang aking pamilya sa pamamagitan ng DAR. Simula pa lang ng mag-apply ako bilang farmer-beneficiary ay naramdaman ko na iyon at ngayon nga ay nag-uumpisa na ang pagginhawa namin sa buhay. Ito ay dahil sa mga proyekto nila tulad ng water supply, electrification, post-harvest facilities, solar-dryer, rice production loan, rice mill, livestock, communal irrigation project, farm-to-market road, seminars, trainings at marami pa."

DONATO C. AQUINO JR.
Victoria, Laguna

"Sa palagay ko may dalawang milyon na ang ang asset ko, kasi may nabili akong dalawang ektarya at sa kalakaran dito sa amin ang bawat isang ektarya ay isang milyon at ang net income ko sa 1 ektarya ay P200,000. Siguro after 5 years sa pamamagitan ng mga assistance na binibigay ni Secretary Braganza ng DAR at tuloy-tuloy ang tamang income, mas uunlad ang buhay namin. At kung magiging bukas ang isip, maglalaan ng panahon, magsisipag at magtitiyaga, pagyayamanin, mamahalin at gagamitin ang mga modernong teknolohiya sa pagsasaka sa lupa, darating ang panahon bawat isa sa amin ay milyonaryo na."

JOSELITO TIBAYAN
Halang, Naic, Cavite

"Simula nang maging ARC ang aming lugar, ang DAR na ang naging backbone ng aming pamumuhay. Dahil sa ahensiyang ito, nagsimula ang pag-unlad ng aming komunidad. Tinulungan nila kaming magkaroon ng ng makabagong kaalaman sa pagtatanim at binigyan nila kami ng makabagong pasilidad. Sa katunayan, kaya sementado na ang lugar namin ay dahil sa tulong ng DAR. Bukod sa pagtatanim ay mayroon din kaming mga poultry at gumagawa din kami ng pastillas. Nanghimasok rin ang DAR kasama ang National Dairy Authority at tinuruan kami ng *pastillas making* na ngayon ay isa sa pangunahin naming produksyon. Dahil din sa kaalamang ibinahagi sa amin ng DAR, ang aming mga asawa ay di na pambahay at ang aming mga anak ay hindi na nagsisipagtambay, sa halip, ang kanilang mga oras ay nagugugol na upang pagkakitaan."

JESUS LIM
San Ildefonso, Bulacan

> "Repormang Agraryo: Nililikha ang masaganang bukas, ngayon."

INFOTECH

Editor **Leo Magno**

Trial of alleged Pinoy hackers continues

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

(Conclusion)

LEILANI Garcia, 27, is the first Filipino to go on trial in the Philippines for allegedly hacking into the computer system of the Thames International Business School without the knowledge of school officials. If found guilty, Garcia, former systems supervisor of Thames, will have to pay P100,000 and up, commensurate to the damage incurred by the complainant, plus an imprisonment of six months up to three years. This is according to the Electronic Commerce Act of the Philippines or Republic Act 8792.

Garcia, however, argued that she accessed the e-mail account in question to send correspondence through the school's e-mail as part of her duties.

The password was supposedly known only by Thames CEO Vivienne Tan (daughter of taipan Lucio Tan) and the school's former IT support head Ceasar Mañalac. The password, Garcia argued, was known by many people because it was posted on one of the office computers sometime December 2000.

Garcia said she asked Mañalac for permission to use the account, which the latter readily gave.

In Mañalac's case, he stands accused of allegedly hacking into the Thames computer system with the intent of stealing confidential information which he would later sell for profit, as shown by an affidavit earlier filed by Thames school co-founder Joel Santos.

Garcia added that Mañalac had told her that "it was common practice for other employees to sometimes access and use the account, as long as the school was not using it," read the resolution signed by investigating prosecutor Anunciacion Hipol. "This was confirmed by one of the officers who was present during their conversation."

Garcia's defense states that the provisions of section 33-a of the E-commerce Law "makes it clear that one of the elements of hacking is the unauthorized access into or interference in a computer system/server or information and communication system."

In his complaint-affidavit, however, Santos pointed out that Garcia had accessed the e-mail account with his knowledge.

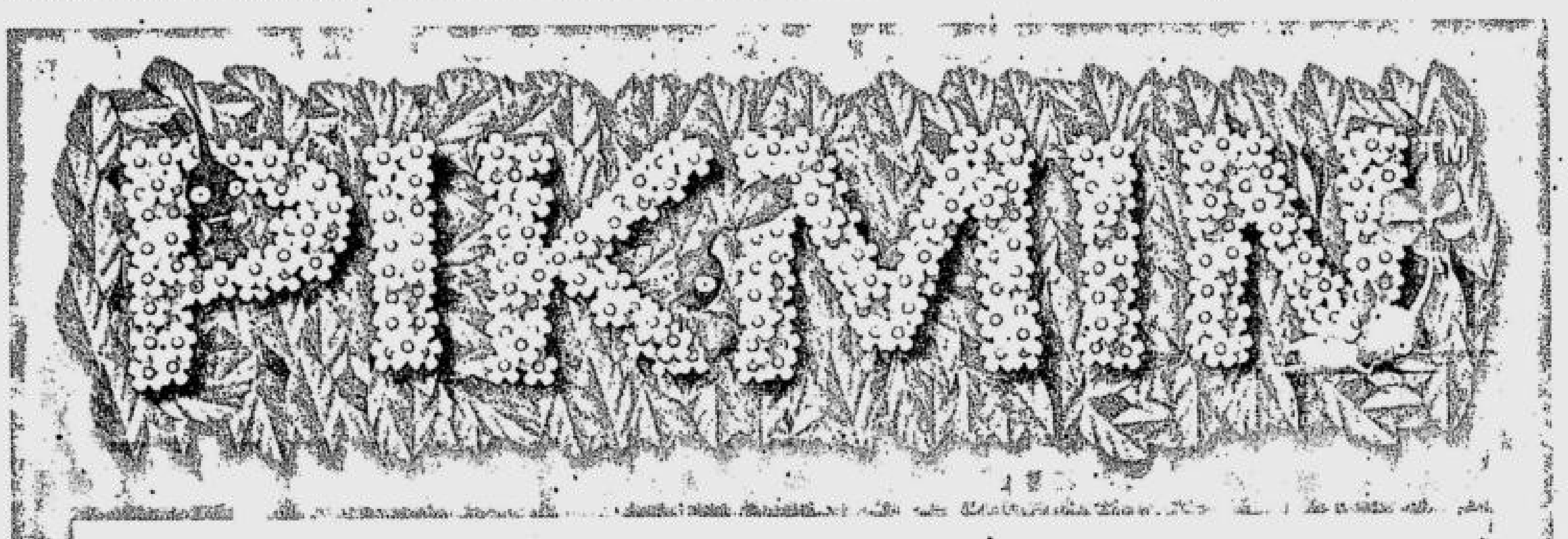
"The allegations in the said complaint clearly shows that the same (allegations) is based on her alleged unauthorized access to the complainant's account with NewGen IT;" Hipol ruled.

Garcia's defense lies in the fact that the law only punishes unauthorized access. She maintained that Mañalac gave her authorization to access Santos' e-mail account, and that the password used was in supposed full view of approximately 30 employees working at Thames at that time.

Garcia also stressed that Santos failed to mention any allegation of "damage, corruption, altercation, theft or loss of electronic data messages or documents," when she used the e-mail account.

In the resolution, Hipol pointed out that Garcia could not be held liable under the provisions of the

TRIAL/ B17



By Leo Magno

MENTION the term "real-time strategy" (RTS) and you'd automatically think of online PC games. But when I played "Pikmin" my view about RTS changed. For the first time we're seeing a console game which may be classified as an RTS game, but this one simplifies gameplay while keeping the fun factor high, in traditional Nintendo fashion.

Part of the reason why Pikmin is fun to play, immersive and addictive while being cerebral and oftentimes frustrating is that the development of the game was headed by Shigeru Miyamoto, Nintendo design-god and fountainhead of longtime favorites Mario and Zelda.

In this game, you go through the misadventures of Capt. Olimar of the Planet Hocotate. His space ship Dolphin (the Nintendo GameCube's development name was also Dolphin) was hit by an asteroid and he crash-lands on a planet with lush gardens, weird insect-creatures, plant-beings and is filled with oxygen. Oxygen is deadly to Olimar, but fortunately his space suit and life-support system remain functional after the crash. However, the suit has battery power enough for only 30 days. To make matters worse, the Dolphin's parts were jarred loose during re-entry into the garden planet, and they were scattered in many directions. Exactly 30 parts of the ship are missing, and Olimar has to recover them all in 30 days or else his space suit's life-support system will fail and Olimar will die.

The cute little Olimar is bald, only an inch tall, has a bulbous nose which occupies half his face, has slits for eyes and no visible mouth. He goes around the garden planet looking for his ship parts, and this is where you start appreciating the GameCube's tiny frame but awesome rendering power. The four areas you can explore in Pikmin—The Impact Site, The Forest of Hope, The Forest Navel and The Distant Spring—are magnificently constructed in their own cute little way. Since Olimar is only an inch tall, everything appears to be huge. Small blades of grass and rocks appear very large, and most of them are interactive. Swish through grass and watch Olimar disappear in it as the grass sways. The sun moves in real-time, plants drift side-to-side when brushed, water flows beautifully and clouds of dust rise beneath Olimar's feet.

Texture work on the creatures and characters in the game are equally impressive. The reflection and lighting effects which the GameCube is known for is made apparent in the well-executed environment mapping. The "cute" nature of the game may turn off some gamers, but once you get over it you'd realize that this is not the core strength of Pikmin. The gameplay is at the heart of what makes this game superior.

As Olimar continues his search for the missing ship parts, he encounters small living plants (about half an inch tall) which Olimar name Pikmin, after his favorite "Pikpik" carrots found on Planet Hocotate. They come from flying bulbs Olimar calls "onions," and are sprinkled on the ground and grow after a few seconds. They sprout a flowered top which Olimar then plucks from the ground to reveal the Pikmin who don't talk but say cute little gibberish kinds of words.

The Pikmin are tenacious and they follow Olimar's commands. They have different traits and uses—the blue ones can travel across water, red ones are tough fighters and are fire-proof and yellow ones can carry bomb rocks and can be thrown higher into the air. Familiarizing yourself with these Pikmin and their uses is important in this game since Olimar's missing ship parts are guarded by huge insects or blocked by certain obstacles. Olimar himself cannot take on the huge insects, he can't break down walls, create bridges across water, cross fiery geysers and he can't jump. That's why he has to cultivate Pikmin, throw them all over the place or rally them behind him to fight an enemy.

We review this game on the GameCube.

Olimar can order up to 100 Pikmin of different colors to follow him and perform certain tasks. This is where the strategy part of the game becomes exciting. While you're ordering red Pikmin to take down that fire-breathing insect (the blue and yellow ones are flammable), you can order the yellow ones to carry bomb rocks and break through stone walls while the blue ones are building a bridge across the water (the yellow and red Pikmin die when they touch water). It's all about strategy and time management, since at the end of the day (each day is about 20 minutes) you have to bring your Pikmin back to their onions or they will be eaten at night by nocturnal insects. Even the sunlight is real-time—you'll notice that it's getting dark. You have 30 days to recover 30 missing ship parts, so this is where the challenge lies. It sounds silly but it's nerve-wracking when you have 40 or so Pikmin carrying back a recovered part to the space ship and the sunset signal is flashing onscreen. It's getting dark, insects are after your Pikmin (who are doing their best), the countdown from 10 to 1 has started but all you can do is watch them, chew on your fingers and hope that they make it back in time.

And it's not an easy challenge. The uninitiated may scoff at the cuteness of Pikmin and compare it with their "realistic" and "mature" games, but challenge them to get at least 20 parts and they won't be able to do it. The first time I did it, I only got 19 parts. At the end of the game, Olimar will still try to take off on the 30th day. The spaceship took off with only 19 parts while the Pikmin were rejoicing down in the garden, but then it sputtered and came crashing back down on the ground. After which the Pikmin picked Olimar up and recycled him by planting him on the ground, and he becomes a Pikmin himself. The second time I tried it, I got 27 parts. I thought I beat the game that time, but the spaceship crashed back down.

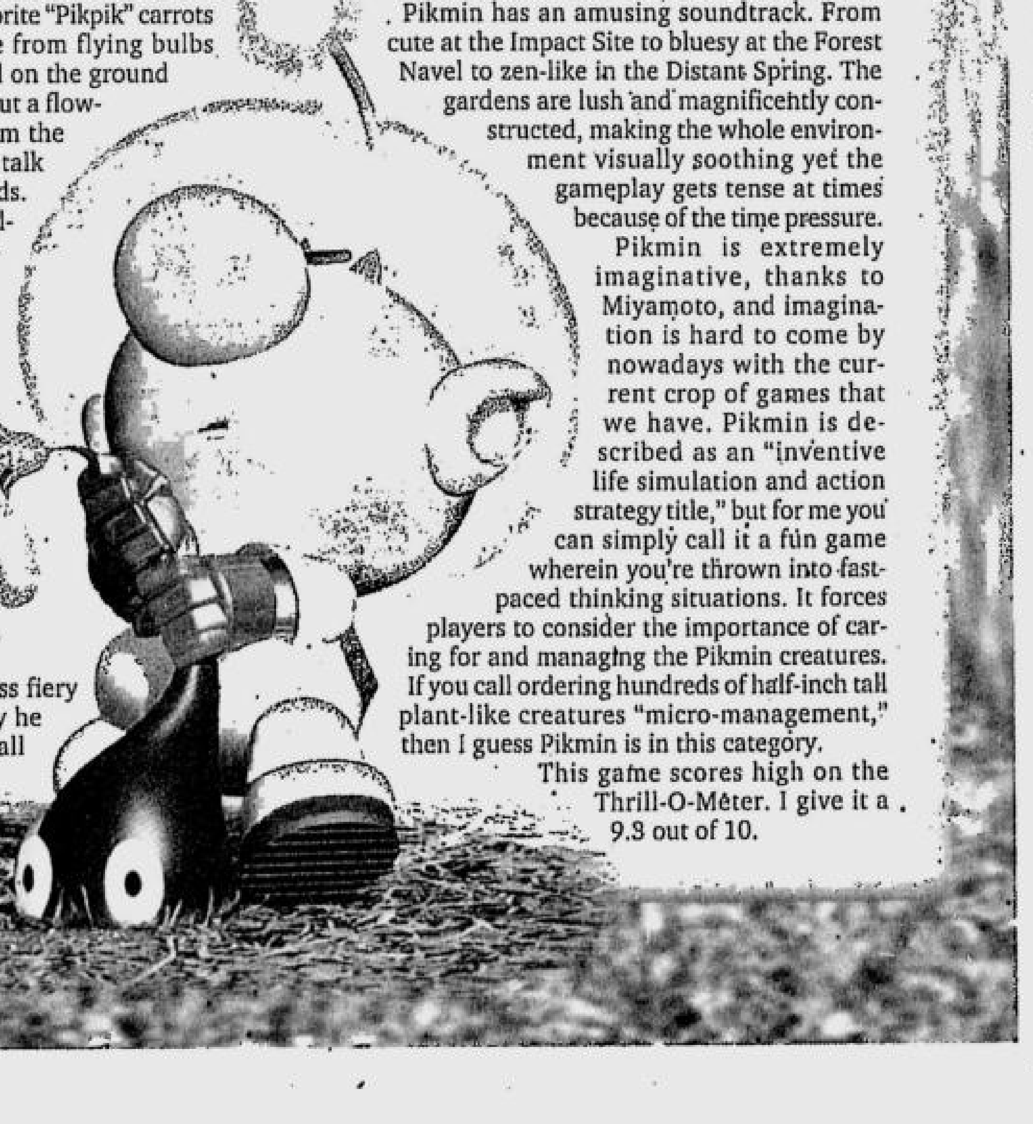
The camera angles are good. You can zoom in and out up to three levels, or change the camera view with a flick of a button to center it behind Olimar, at a 45-degree angle or straight from the top with a bird's eye view like your usual RTS. This is good for looking at the Pikmin's progress if you give them different tasks in different locations.

Pikmin is really cute, has an addictive gameplay, has interesting creatures (like fiery blowhogs, beady long legs and wollywogs), crazy ship parts (like the whimsical radar, extraordinary bolt and the eternal fuel dynamo), but the underlying artificial intelligence is really wicked, even more wicked than "Oddworld: Munch's Oddysee" on the Xbox. Don't take this game lightly. The whole game is one huge puzzle which you go through without realizing it, making it fun to play, nail-biting and frustrating at times.

Pikmin has an amusing soundtrack. From cute at the Impact Site to bluesy at the Forest Navel to zen-like in the Distant Spring. The gardens are lush and magnificently constructed, making the whole environment visually soothing yet the gameplay gets tense at times because of the time pressure.

Pikmin is extremely imaginative, thanks to Miyamoto, and imagination is hard to come by nowadays with the current crop of games that we have. Pikmin is described as an "inventive life simulation and action strategy title," but for me you can simply call it a fun game wherein you're thrown into fast-paced thinking situations. It forces players to consider the importance of caring for and managing the Pikmin creatures. If you call ordering hundreds of half-inch tall plant-like creatures "micro-management," then I guess Pikmin is in this category.

This game scores high on the Thrill-O-Meter. I give it a 9.3 out of 10.



Oracle, Dell, Red Hat join forces to support Linux

By Joel D. Pinaroc

SOFTWARE giant Oracle Corp. has announced that it has teamed up with Linux developer Red Hat and hardware vendor Dell Computer in positioning Linux as the software of choice for enterprise computer systems.

In a global call conference held Friday, Oracle executives said one of the results of the partnership is the bundling of Oracle's latest database software product—Release 2 of Oracle9i—with Dell's PowerEdge Servers and Dell/EMC PowerVault storage systems.

Release 2 of Oracle 9i, developed in conjunction with Dell and Red Hat, is being positioned to run Linux servers via clustering technology.

Oracle officials said clustering allows an enterprise user to "build his infrastructure" as the need arises, without having to spend investments upfront, specifically on the hardware side.

"Clustering" essentially improves data traffic among network components or nodes, thus eliminating the need for an enterprise user to purchase expensive hardware, in anticipation of increasing computing requirements in the future.

Further, the announcement is also seen as another move by Oracle to push for Linux, which, despite being available for free, has not met the expectations of its proponents.

Linux, developed by Linus Torvalds, is a programming language that is known mainly as a low-cost alternative to commercially available programming languages that are quite expensive such as Unix and Windows-based software development tools.

Oracle is betting big on Linux following predictions from research firm International Data Center that the market for Linux-based databases will reach $5.9 billion in 2005.

Perhaps the most significant result of the partnership is the "enhanced" technical support which existing Linux users and potential adopters can expect from Oracle and Red Hat. Dell, for its part, will offer server products that are "certified" to maximize Linux-based database software.

According to Joel Garcia, solutions manager at Oracle Philippines, Oracle and Red Hat will now have a "knowledge base" center to accommodate technical support requirements for Linux.

Garcia said the lack of technical support is seen as one of the main reasons for the slow uptake for applications developed using Linux. The partnership is expected to address this issue, Garcia added.

Philips, Nokia introduce multimedia cell phones

By Leo Magno

IF the back-to-back local launches of Finnish company Nokia and Dutch company Philips are any indication, it would be safe to say that cell phone manufacturers are gearing up for the next big thing in mobile technology: MMS or multimedia messaging services.

Nokia launched the 7650 model in the country on June 4, and Philips launched its Fisio series on June 5. What do they have in common? The Philips Fisio 820 and the Nokia 7650 are both MMS phones with big, color displays. They are both multimedia, GPRS (general packet radio system) phones being offered in the hope that Globe and Smart would jumpstart MMS in the country.

When this writer witnessed the regional launch of these two phones—the 7650 in Hong Kong and the Fisio 820 in Singapore—only a few weeks apart from each other during the first quarter of the year, it was obvious that they were racing with time and with each other. This goes to show that, along with Ericsson which earlier introduced its own MMS model, manufacturers are trying to jump on the multimedia bandwagon as GPRS and 3G (third generation) mobile services continue to unfurl.

But what is MMS? MMS is a service which allows users to send multimedia messages—be it text, images, audio and video. Although the audio and video part of this goal remain pipe dreams, the MMS phones of today can already offer images and text (such as e-mail or traditional SMS).

If by texting you can send and receive short messages, MMS stores multimedia messages (such as pictures) on the MMS server and then forwards it to the recipient. However, your phones have to be MMS-capable and your operator (Globe or Smart) have to have their MMS servers in place. In addition, since multimedia data is heavier than ordinary text, the operator has to run its MMS applications on a bigger wireless bandwidth such as GPRS which has about four times the capacity of the existing dual-band GSM networks of today.

"Imaging and MMS will be the next key driver of mobile communications," said Paul-Henri Ferrand, vice president and general manager for Nokia Networks in Asia-Pacific.

Ferrand had been touring Asia introducing the 7650 which is not only an MMS phone but also has a built-in camera so you can take a picture, store it in your phone and then send it wirelessly to another MMS phone or to any e-mail address.

"At the end of 2002, about half of Nokia's mobile phones will be MMS-enabled. In 2003, majority of new Nokia phones will be MMS-enabled."

A day later, Bob Pillay, general manager of Philips Consumer Communications for Southeast Asia and Taiwan, started his own MMS evangelical work in the Philippines. With phones like the Fisio 820, Pillay says, we can see applications such as music streaming, traffic watch and video mail as GPRS becomes more popular.

"Over a billion devices will be connected wirelessly by 2005," said Pillay. "The primary opportunity will be in high-end digital consumer devices, and then consumer electronics penetration will follow."

The Fisio line is targeted at such applications, starting with the high-end Fisio 820 which has a large screen which is full-color,

PHILIPS/ B17

Trial of alleged Filipino hackers . . .

From B16

E-commerce Law which relates to the "piracy or the unauthorized copying, reproduction, distribution, importation, use, removal, alteration, substitution, modification, storage, uploading, downloading of protected material, electronic signature or copyrighted works."

But Garcia never denied that she accessed the e-mail account of Thames from her home, Hipol wrote in the resolution, noting that records of NewGen IT also supported this fact.

The resolution also noted that Garcia "never alleged in her defense that the use of the account was somehow related to her prescribed duties as an employee of the complainant."

The resolution stated that Garcia's unauthorized use of the e-mail somehow "caused damage and prejudice to" Thames.

"After evaluating the evidence presented, there is sufficient grounds to engender a well-founded belief that . . . the E-commerce Act . . . has been violated and that the respondent is probably guilty thereof and should be held for trial."

Following the filing of this resolution on Sept. 12, 2001, Garcia immediately paid the recommended bail of P6,000, sources indicated.

Last month, the National Bureau of Investigation's Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division arrested Mañalac in his house at the San Lorenzo Subdivision in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. He was arrested almost a year after charges were filed against him by the NBI for allegedly hacking into Thames' computer system.

Mañalac posted bail the day he was arrested, said lawyer Efren Meneses of the Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division.

Meneses said Mañalac paid P12,000 as bail for the alleged hacking case. This was apart from the P80,000 bail he posted for the qualified theft case filed against him by the NBI, Meneses said.

In affidavits submitted by the Thames school officials to the NBI, it said that Mañalac supposedly hacked into Thames' system with the aim of profiting from the sale of materials including copyrighted study guides and training manuals of the school.

According to the E-Commerce Law, hacking or cracking is defined as "unauthorized access into or interference in a computer system/server or information and communication system; or any access in order to corrupt, alter, steal, or destroy using a computer or other similar information and communication devices, without the knowledge and consent of the owner of the computer or information and communications system, including the introduction of computer viruses and the like, resulting in the corruption, destruction, alteration, theft or loss of electronic data or electronic documents."

Garcia stressed that the complaint against her failed to mention any allegation of damage, corruption, altercation, theft or loss of electronic data messages or documents, when she used the school's e-mail account.

"Moreover, it must be pointed out that only one computer system at a time could gain online access using Thames' NewGen IT (e-mail) account and password. This is because once the account is accessed, the service provider rejects any attempts from other computers to connect using the password. Thus, if an external computer or user was already online using the Thames account, even Thames would not be able to access the Internet," Garcia's counter-affidavit read.

"Even if I knew how to hack, I could only do so if Thames' computer system was connected to the Internet. Hence, it would be impossible for me to access the Thames computer system or copy files from it if I was using the school's Internet account with NewGen IT."

Garcia also accused Thames of harassment and plotting to destroy her reputation.

"From the time of the discovery of the alleged unauthorized use of the password sometime in January 2001 up to the time of my resignation on 23 March 2001, Thames has never raised the matter with me. Nor has it proceeded against me administratively. The complaint was filed with the NBI only on 20 April 2001," the counter-affidavit read.

Garcia said she was never issued a subpoena or notice by the NBI regarding the investigation.

"Instead, I only read about it in the June 7 and 8, 2001 editions of the Philippine Daily Inquirer," Garcia added.

Documents obtained by INQ7.net showed that the Department of Justice received the findings of the NBI's investigation on Garcia on May 25, 2001. The NBI report was then transmitted to the City Prosecutor of Pasig sometime between April 28 and 30, 2001.

The NBI report filed by Palmer Mallari, supervising agent of the Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division, on May 21, 2001 indicated that a certain telephone number was found to be among the numbers logging on to the NewGen IT e-mail account. In log reports by NewGen IT, copies of which were later provided to the Pasig City Prosecutor, the NBI said that the telephone number was registered with the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. under the name of Estrelita Clemente Garcia, Leilani Garcia's mother. Log reports show someone used that line to access the e-mail account 18 times from Dec. 17, 2000 until Jan. 1, 2001.

Garcia's trial, which is being held at the Pasig Metropolitan Trial Court, began last month and will resume on June 19, 2002 under Judge Ma. Cristina Cornejo.

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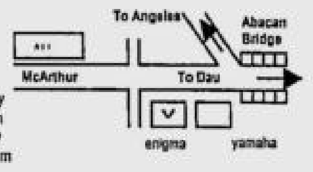

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Philips . . .

From B16

Bluetooth connectivity and the fastest GPRS available today (GPRS Class 10). The long battery life associated with Philips phones is also there, with a talk time of six hours and a standby time of 12 days.

But with all this hype about MMS, could this new technology be just another WAP (wireless application protocol) which had so many promises but fizzled out in the end? One problem with MMS is that it has to run on a high-bandwidth network like GPRS. Smart and Globe have GPRS networks already, but they cannot roll them out commercially yet because they don't know how to price the services. Then, MMS phone manufacturers like Nokia and Philips still have to wait for or convince Globe and Smart to set up MMS servers. After that, you need to have MMS applications. It will be a chicken-and-egg situation all over again, where the network will wait for content, something which never happened with WAP.

"I don't think this will go the way of WAP," said Ferrand. "MMS will have broader acceptance by users because it is exciting. Also, MMS technology does exist and the content is now available. Finally, we have studies saying people will buy MMS."

A study by the HPI Research Group on behalf of Nokia Networks shows that subscribers are willing to pay between two to three times the price of an SMS message for MMS, or in the Philippines, between P5 and P7.5.

Ferrand said the initial target for MMS phones and services is the youth market.

Ironically, not all youngsters will be able to afford these phones once they are commercially released in the second half of the year. The Philips Fisio 820, for example, has an estimated retail price of P17,000, while the Nokia 7650 is not expected to go below the P20,000 level.

Pinnacle Studio Deluxe

By Jerry Liao

THE BOTTOM LINE

THIS week we look at the Pinnacle Studio Deluxe video solution.

Strengths

(1) Supports both DV and analog video from capture to output.

(2) Comes with editing software, Hollywood FX, DVD creation software, TitleDeko for titles.

(3) Capable of DVD and CD authoring.

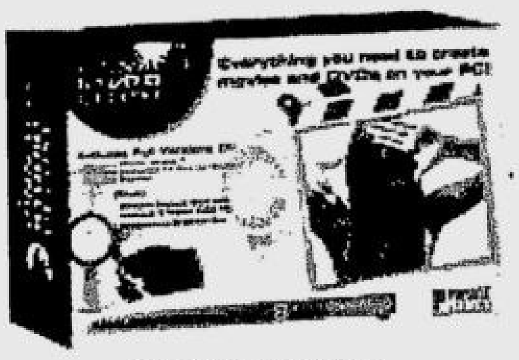
(4) Uses minimal disk space, one hour of digital video uses around 360Mb.

Weaknesses

(1) Still needs rendering, rendering time is dependant on PC configuration.

(2) No real-time output to video monitor, only on PC monitor.

(3) Some lines appeared during analog capture, none with DV.



The Bottom Line

Great start for beginners, very affordable. Easy to use. Helps make amateur video enthusiasts produce professional videos.

For more reviews on the latest gadgets and gizmos, visit http://www.infochat.com.ph.

Want us to review a product? Send e-mail to infochat@mozcom.com with the subject heading: "The Bottom line."

Hyphen and dash in MS Word

POWERTIPS

HERE'S how to use hyphens and dashes and how to activate them in MS Word.

1) (-) Hyphen : Key to press : minus or numeric-minus. Hyphens are used within some names and to separate some prefixes from a root word.

2) (–) En Dash : Key to press : Ctrl + numeric-minus. This is used to indicate a span.

3) (—) Em Dash : Key to press : Ctrl + Alt + numeric-minus. Used in setting off a parenthetical comment. For more tips, visit http://www.brainshare.com.ph.

Jerry Liao

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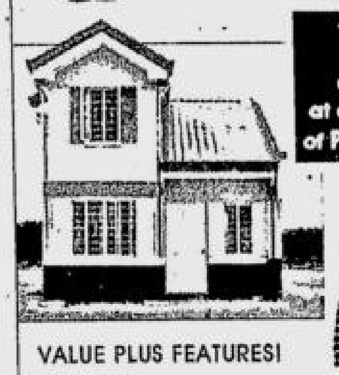

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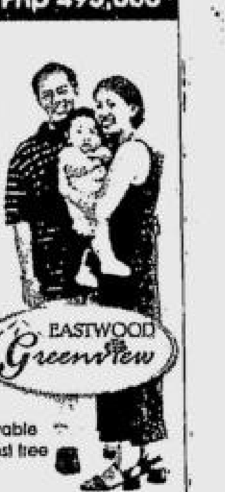

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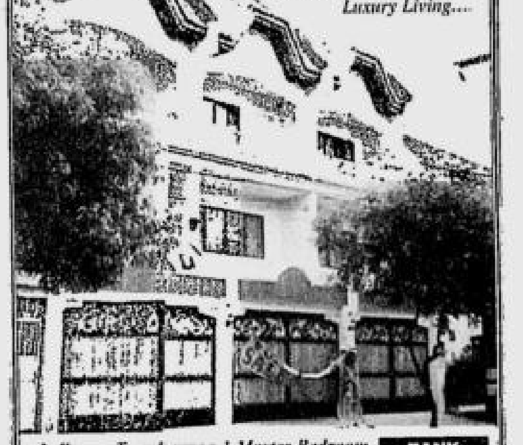

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MANILA
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 19

IN RE: PETITION FOR CHANGE
OF NAME/CORRECTION OF
ENTRY IN THE CERTIFICATE
OF BIRTH OF ARTURO SY CHIU, JR.

ARTURO SY CHIU, JR.
Petitioner,

Sp. Proc. No. 02-103502

- versus -

THE CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MANILA,
Respondent.
x------------------------------------x

ORDER

A verified petition having been filed by the petitioner, through counsel praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered ordering the changing/correcting of petitioner from ARTURO SY CHIU, JR to ARTURO SY CHIU CONTRERAS, JR. alias ARTURO CHIU CONTRERAS, JR. and the name of his father, from ARTURO CHIU to ARTURO CHIU CONTRERAS, in the petitioner's Certificate of Live Birth and or in the Civil Registry of the City of Manila.

Finding the petition sufficient in form and substance, it is hereby ordered that the same be set for hearing on July 11, 2002 at 2:00 PM before this Branch located at Rm. 420, City Hall Building, Manila.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner, once a week, for three consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation to be selected by raffle pursuant to PD 1079.

The Local Civil Registrar of Manila, through the Office of the Solicitor General, and any person having or claiming any interest in the petition, under the entry the correction of which is sought may within fifteen days from notice of the petition or from the last date of publication of such notice, file an opposition thereto.

Furnish the Office of the Solicitor General, Office of the City Prosecutor and the Local Civil Registrar of Manila with copies of the Petition and of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines, May 23, 2002.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA R. DAGUNA
Judge

(PDI – June 3, 10 & 17, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late LOPE L. UNAJAN was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc #237, Page #49, Book #71, Series of 2002 Before Notary Public Atty. Juanito R. Dimaano of City of Marikina. (PDI-May 27, June 3, & 10 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Felixberto A. Santos has been judicially settled among his heirs per Doc. 565, Page 113, Book 1, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Frederick F. Vallestero of Rizal (PDI-June 3, 10 & 17, '02)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS FREE OBIT DESIGN

Renato L. Santos

September 27, 1924 - June 8, 2002

His wife **VIDA**; children **ROBBIE, ROLAND** and **RENE**; daughters-in-law **SUSAN** and **CAROL**; grandchildren **JUSTIN** and **JULES, CAMILLE** and **AUSTIN, POCHOLO**; cousins **CHITO** and **DODO LIM** and other relatives request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at Capitol Memorial Chapels, Arnneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, June 12, 2002 after the 9:00 AM Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

DR. CORNELIO PAZ CALABIG

Former Mayor of Paete, Laguna

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on June 4, 2002, he was 77.

His loving wife **Rosario Gomez Calabig** (†); children **Mita & Ramon Baldemor, Jude & Baby, Joanne** and **Jhod**; grandchildren **Ra, Therese, AJ** & brother **Juan, Rosendo & Lita**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence in Paete, Laguna. Interment will be on June 11, 2002 at Pagsanjan Catholic Cemetery after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at St. James Parish Church, Paete, Laguna.

CLASSIFIEDS

RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
CITY GOVERNMENT OF COTABATO
Region XII
CITY CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **Edgardo L. Araya** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **Loreto, Jr.** to **EDGARDO** in the birth certificate of **Loreto Araya, Jr.** who was born on August 25, 1995 at Pandacan, Manila and whose parents are Loreto Araya and Lourdes Lagdamen.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than ___________.

(Sgd.) **SUSAN GUIAÑI-DUMAMA**
City Civil Registrar

(PDI - June 10, 2002)

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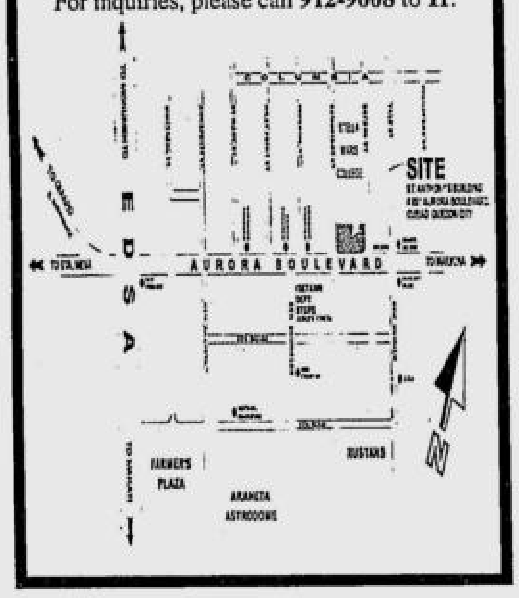


Republic of the Philippines
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO
PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO
MUNICIPALITY OF PARANG

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Parang, Maguindanao has obtained a loan for the improvement and construction of the Parang Water Supply System from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) thru the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) as the Government Financial Institution (GFI) under the Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector Project (MBUSSP), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). All interested bidders with PCAB license "AAA" and classified by and registered with the IAC, as Large B for Water Supply projects are invited to apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

Name of Project	Parang Water Supply System-Package 1	Parang Water Supply System-Package 2
Location	Parang, Maguindanao, ARMM	Parang, Maguindanao, ARMM
Approved Budget for the Contract	P46.67M	P43.28M
Contract Duration	360 calendar days	360 calendar days
Scope of Work	Supply and installation of pipelines and fittings, construction of related civil works including dam/intake structure, reinforced concrete ground reservoir, booster pumping station, chlorination house, access roads, etc.	Supply and installation of pipelines and fittings, service connections and construction of related civil works, break pressure chamber structure, etc.

Schedule of application for eligibility and bidding are as follows:

1.	Issuance of Bidders Eligibility Statement Forms	From June 3 to June 17, 2002 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00
2.	Submission of Duly Accomplished Eligibility Forms	Last day of submission is on June 24, 2002 at PIU-LGU Office, Parang, Maguindanao and Woodfields Consultants, Inc., 153 Kamias Road, Quezon City
3.	Issuance of Plans/ Bid Documents	From July 8 to 15, 2002 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P10,000.00
4.	Site Visit	The Eligible Contractor shall conduct the site visit/inspection on July 16, 2002
5.	Pre-Bid Conference	10:00 AM on July 17, 2002 at PIU-LGU Office, Parang, Maguindanao
6.	Submission and Opening of Bids	Not later than 2:00 PM at BAC-LGU Office, Parang, Maguindanao on August 19, 2002

For issuance of Bidders Eligibility Statement Form and Plans/Bid Documents, contact: **MR. JESUS M. CORPUS**, Project Officer, Municipal Hall, Parang, Maguindanao.

The Municipality of Parang reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ADNAN C. BIRUAR, AL HAJ**
Acting Mayor/Vice Mayor
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – June 3, 10 & 17, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF VICTORIA (Laguna), INC. (RBVI)

1. Pursuant to the commitment of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) to promptly service claims for insured deposits, initial payoff operation will be conducted in the closed Rural Bank of Victoria (Laguna), Inc. for the settlement of insured deposits with balances of P10,000.00 and below. Depositors whose deposit balances are within the said amount are requested to proceed directly to the designated payoff sites on the dates indicated in the table below. Receiving and processing of claims are scheduled from Monday to Friday during office hours.

RBVI Office/ Branch	Payoff Site	Duration of Payoff
Victoria (Laguna), Head Office	RB Victoria (Laguna), Inc. J.P. Rizal Street, Barangay Nanhaya Victoria, Laguna	June 10, 2002 to June 27, 2002
Batangas City Branch	RB Victoria (Laguna), Inc. Rizal Avenue corner P. Dandan Streets Batangas City	June 10, 2002 to June 19, 2002

2. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) bearing the depositor's specimen signature.

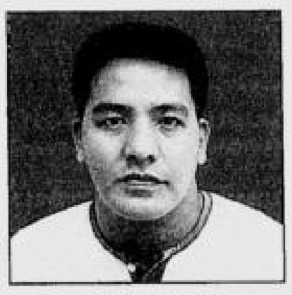
   Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

3. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Victoria (Laguna), Inc. is on **November 8, 2003.** After **November 8, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

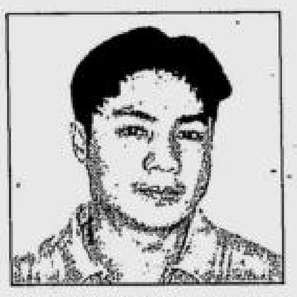
PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – June 9 & 10, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Joel M. Castro



Rhoderick G. Esto

This is to inform the public that Messrs. Joel M. Castro and Rhoderick G. Esto, whose pictures appear above were both terminated for cause effective May 29, 2002 and May 23, 2002, respectively, from C.F. Sharp Crew Management Inc.

All transactions entered into by Messrs. Joel M. Castro and Rhoderick G. Esto for and in behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

(PDI--June 10, 2002)

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone 8931320 ext. 5131 Fax 8401461

INVITATION TO BID

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested qualified contractors to submit sealed bids for the project.

THIRD PARTY SAFETY TECHNICAL INSPECTION
OF VARIOUS CRANE UNITS
under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-098

Bid documents may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Raymond Sison) starting **May 31, 2002; 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred only (P500.00).

For purposes of clarification, a pre-bid meeting will be held on **June 13, 2002; 2:30 p.m.** at PNOC-EDC's Conference Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. V at the above address.

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than **2:00 p.m. of July 4, 2002** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC - EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC - EDC.

(Sgd.) **ESTER R. GUERZON**
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI--June 10, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF DAVAO
CITY OF PANABO
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date: 06 June 2002
Contract Identification: PC-My, PC-DD and PC-MO
World Bank Loan No. 4228PH
World Bank Loan Name: WDDP-USSD

1. The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) has received a loan from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** towards the cost of the Water District Development Project-Urban Sewerage, Sanitation, and Drainage Component (WDDP-USSD) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for Barangay Environmental and Sanitation Plan (BESP) Project (First Batch), of the City Government of Panabo, consisting of three (3) contracts, namely: (a) PC-MY, (b) PC-DD, (c) PC-MO, Bidding following National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Procedures are open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under BRD Loans and IDA Credits.
2. The City Government of Panabo has received a loan from the LBP under the facilities of the IBRD for WDDP-USSD. The City Government of Panabo invites sealed bids from eligible qualified bidders for the water supply and sanitation facilities works in selected barangays of the City of Panabo, Province of Davao del Norte as specified in the schedule of bidding below.
3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased at the City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), City Hall, Panabo City for a non-refundable fee of Philippine Pesos Five Thousand (PhP5,000.00) for each contract, available during office hours which are specified in the schedule of bidding below. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

Contract Name	Location	Bid Security Amount (PhP)	Issuance of Bidding Documents		Bid Closing	
			From	To	Time	Date
PC-MY	Brgy. Manay, Panabo City	163,000.00	June 10, 2002	June 21, 2002	2:00 PM	July 8, 2002
PC-DD	Brgy. Datu Abdul, Panabo City	91,000.00	June 10, 2002	June 21, 2002	2:00 PM	July 8, 2002
PC-MO	Brgy. Mabunao, Panabo City	113,000.00	June 10, 2002	June 21, 2002	2:00 PM	July 8, 2002

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security amount for each contract as stated in the above table, and shall be addressed to the PBAC Chairperson and delivered to the Session Hall, City Hall, Panabo City, Davao del Norte on or before the time and dates of bid closing as specified in schedule of bidding above, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. For bid closing of contracts with the same time and dates bids shall be opened sequentially.
5. Bidders may bid for one or several contracts for those Contract Packages that are to be bid on the same date, as further defined in the bidding documents. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Form of Bid or submitted in writing before the deadline for bid submission. All bids and offers of discounts shall be opened and evaluated simultaneously so as to determine the bid or combination of bids, including discounts, offering the lowest evaluated solution for the Employer.
6. The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the Employer's action.

(Sgd.) **HON. REY P. GAVINA**
City Mayor
PBAC Chairperson

(PDI - June 10, 2002)

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OMNI General Merchandise
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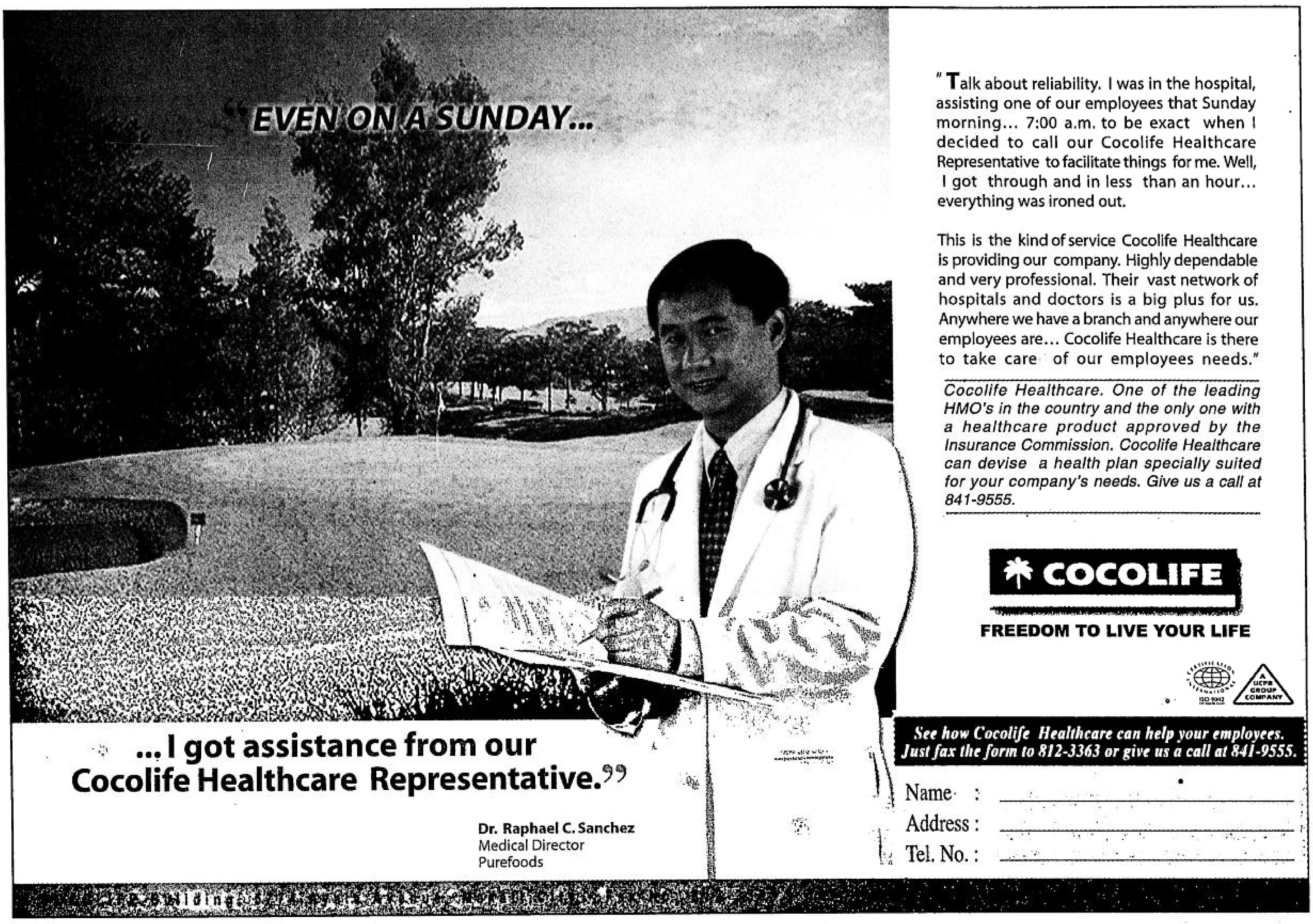
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Mr. John is back and ready for a brawl

SALIM: Seller

GOKONGWEI: Buyer

PANGILINAN: Loser?

By Raul C. Dancel

WHEN John Gokongwei Jr. announced late last year that he was retiring at 75, many had this vision of a man riding out into the sunset and quietly fading from the country's business scene.

Gokongwei—"Mr. John" to friends—himself said he wouldn't be doing anything except sign checks for JG Summit Holdings Inc. and only when his son, Lance, and younger brother, James, were not around.

"No more everyday 9-9 job," he said then.

Certainly, very few expected any more surprises from this pugnacious-looking man who once scared the living daylights out of San Miguel Corp.'s self-styled demigods.

Last week, however, supposedly retired, he did just that: pull out another corporate coup.

$925-M deal

Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. has agreed to sell control of its two Philippine flagships to Gokongwei for around $925 million.

The Gokongwei group and First Pacific agreed to set up a joint venture that would take over First Pacific's 24.47-percent stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Metro Pacific Corp.'s 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp. The Gokongweis will own 67 percent of this new company, while First Pacific will control 33 percent.

"It's a great opportunity. He has to take it on. He honestly believes he can run the business better," a source close to the family says in explaining Gokongwei's decision.

"He can't turn his back on a challenge. He's been living on challenges, and it's a nice feather on his cap," the source adds. "He just can't get it out of his system."

In seeking to take over PLDT, however, Gokongwei is lining up against the cream of the local business community, and heading this bunch is the man who stands to lose everything: First Pacific's Manuel Pangilinan.

MR. JOHN/ C4

Can he still pull it off?

By Doris C. Dumlao

WITH huge odds stacking up against him, can John Gokongwei Jr. still pull off one of the biggest corporate coups in the country's history?

Gokongwei, who's supposed to have retired last year, has signed a deal to take over telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and property developer Bonifacio Land Corp.

Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. has agreed to sell control of its two Philippine flagships to Gokongwei for around $925 million.

Gokongwei isn't entering into this deal with a half-empty pocket.

After unloading significant investments in Apo Cement, Far East Bank and Trust Co., and Philippine Commercial International Bank, this self-made taipan has built a sufficient war chest to not only grow its flagship businesses but to launch an all-or-nothing bid for controlling stakes in PLDT and Bonifacio Land.

Analysts estimate that the Gokongweis have at least $800 million in liquid assets.

Gokongwei is also not plunging into the whole thing half-blind.

At the onset, the deal has been structured in such a way as to avoid legal questions that might be thrown its way.

There has been no outright sale of shares. Instead, the Gokongweis and First Pacific are forming a joint venture.

As the transfer of control will be made through a joint venture, PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr., who signed a deal in 1998 that allowed First Pacific's entry into PLDT, cannot invoke his right-of-first-refusal or a lock-up period that will not expire until next year.

CAN/ C4

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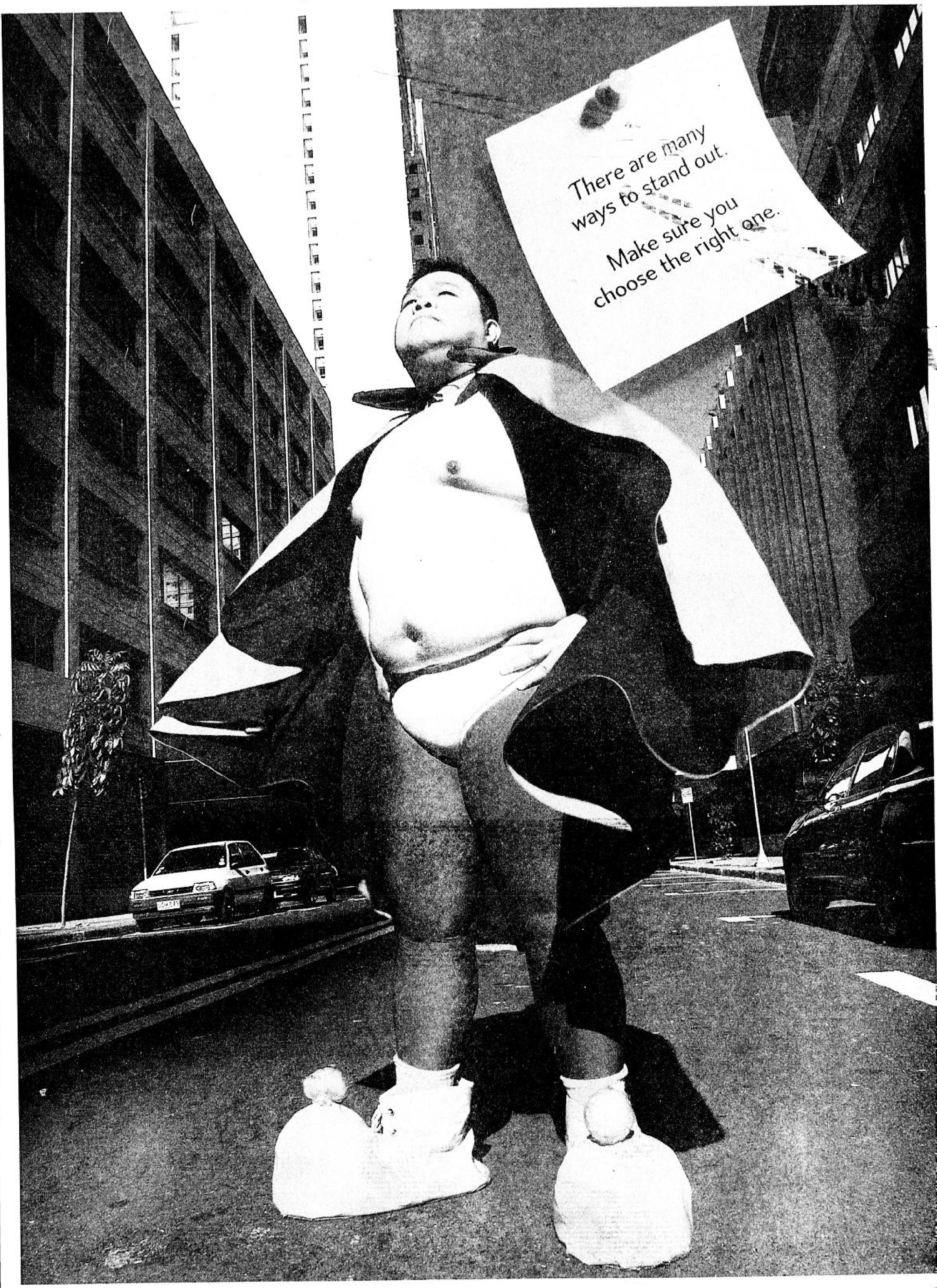
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When the secrets of marketing are laid bare, make sure to be there for the sake of your company's future. Don't miss this incredible chance to learn to win in an ever-changing market.

CEOs, marketing directors, brand managers, marketing service directors, research and promotion teams, sales directors, advertising directors and other executives are encouraged to attend. Register before June 30, 2002 with the regular rate of P7,500 per delegate. On-site registration on July 2 & 3 is P9,500 per delegate. For more details, please call Lydia, Rose, or Marjorie at telephone no. 893-7127, 892-3144, or 813-0466. You can also email your inquiries to pma@philonline.com or visit our website at www.pma.philonline.com.

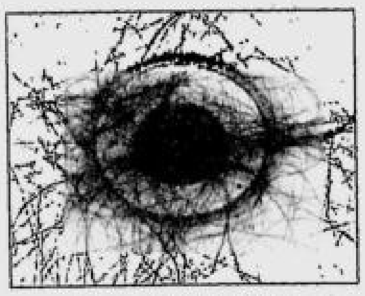
MAPPING THE FUTURE

The MAP column will resume next week.

Ignore Your Hair Loss & You'll End Up Bald

Receding Hairline

Thinning Hair



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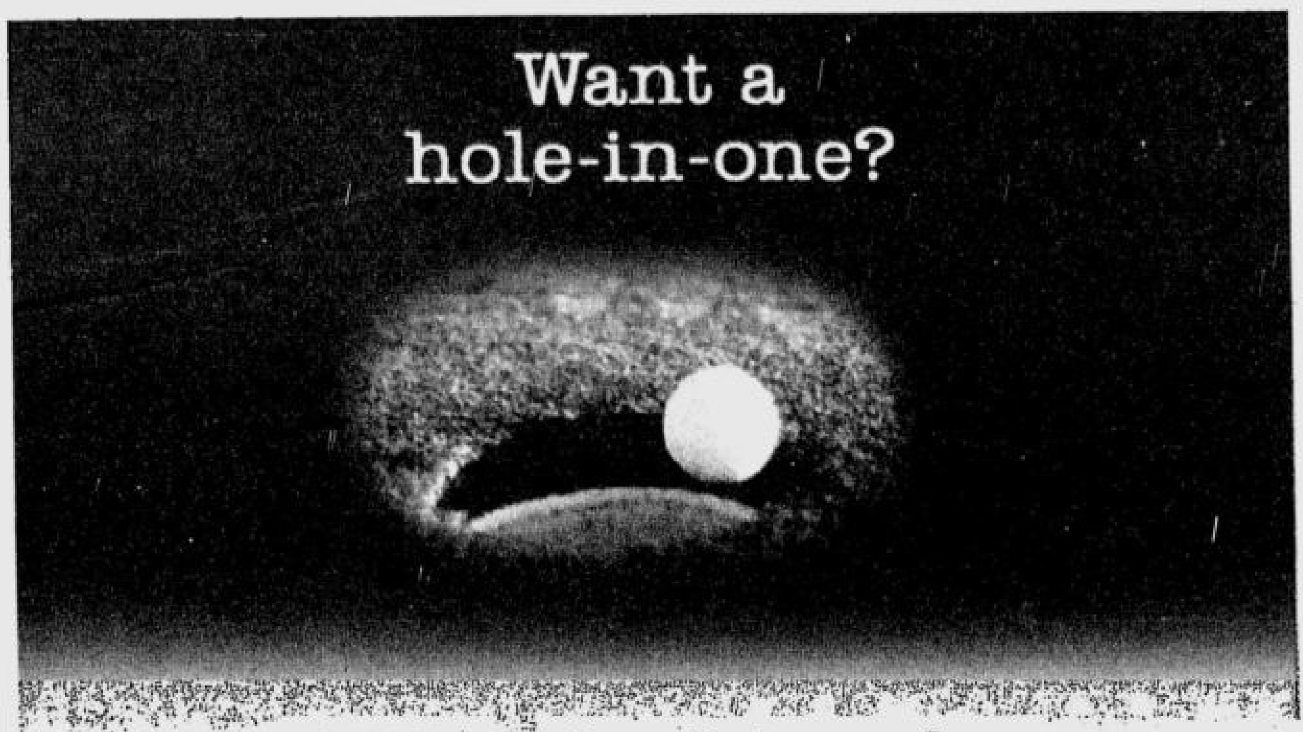

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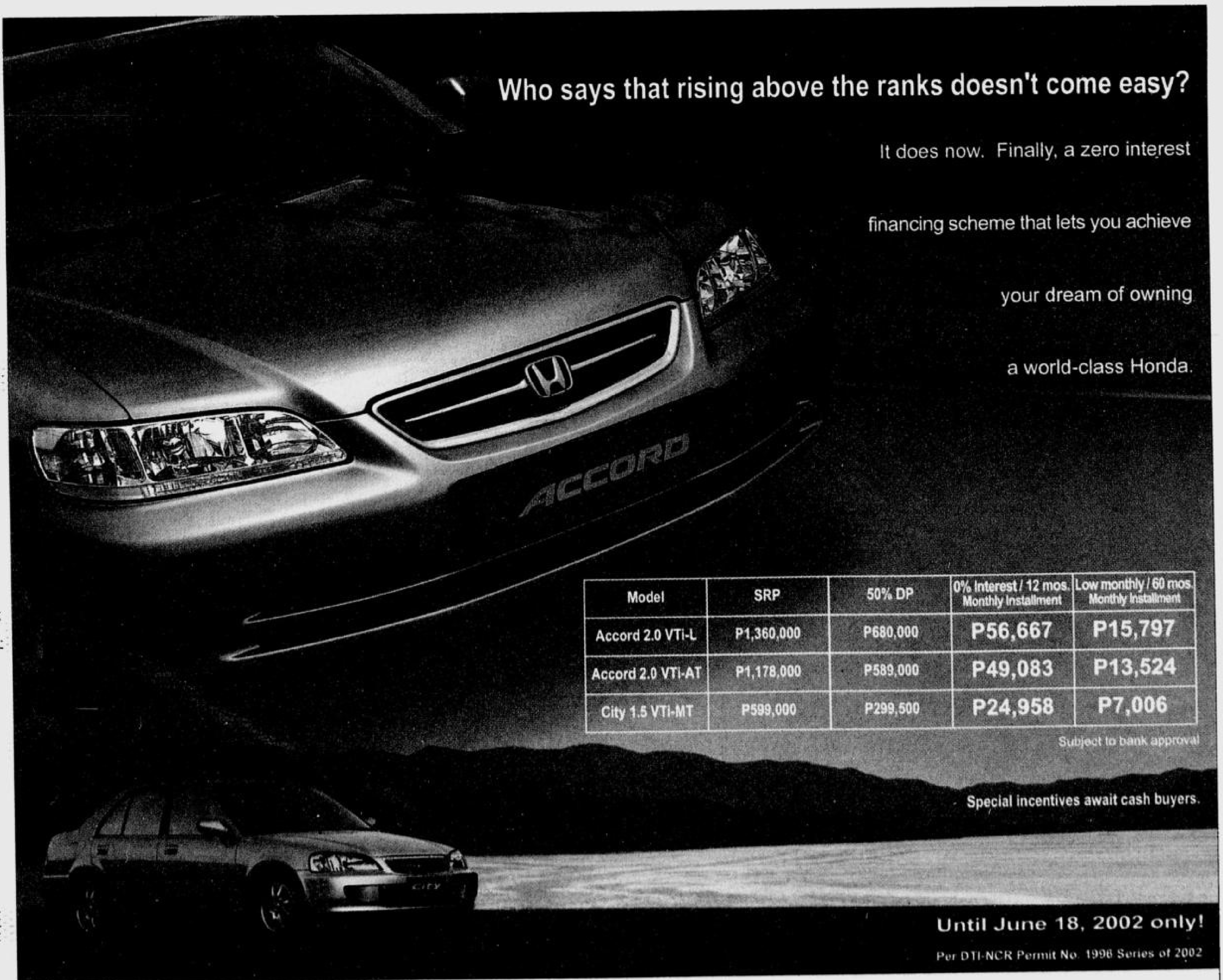

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City 1.5 VTi-MT	P599,000	P299,500	P24,958	P7,006

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MAPPING THE FUTURE

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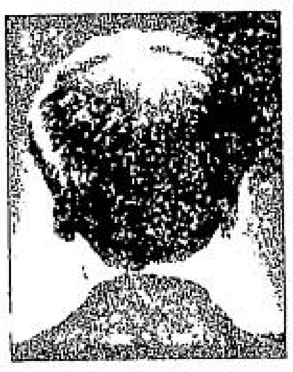
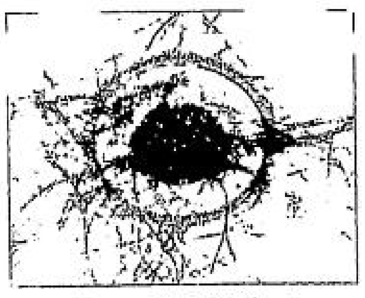
Ignore Your Hair Loss & You'll End Up Bald

Receding Hairline



Thinning Hair



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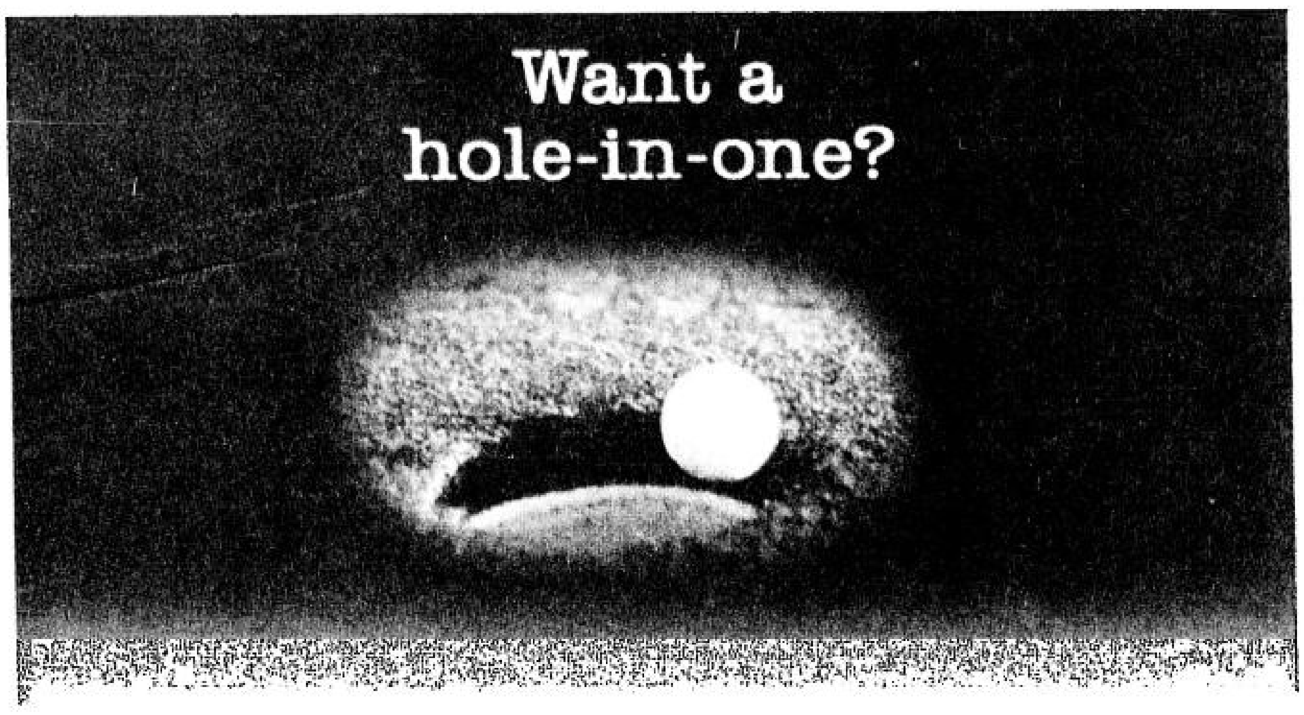

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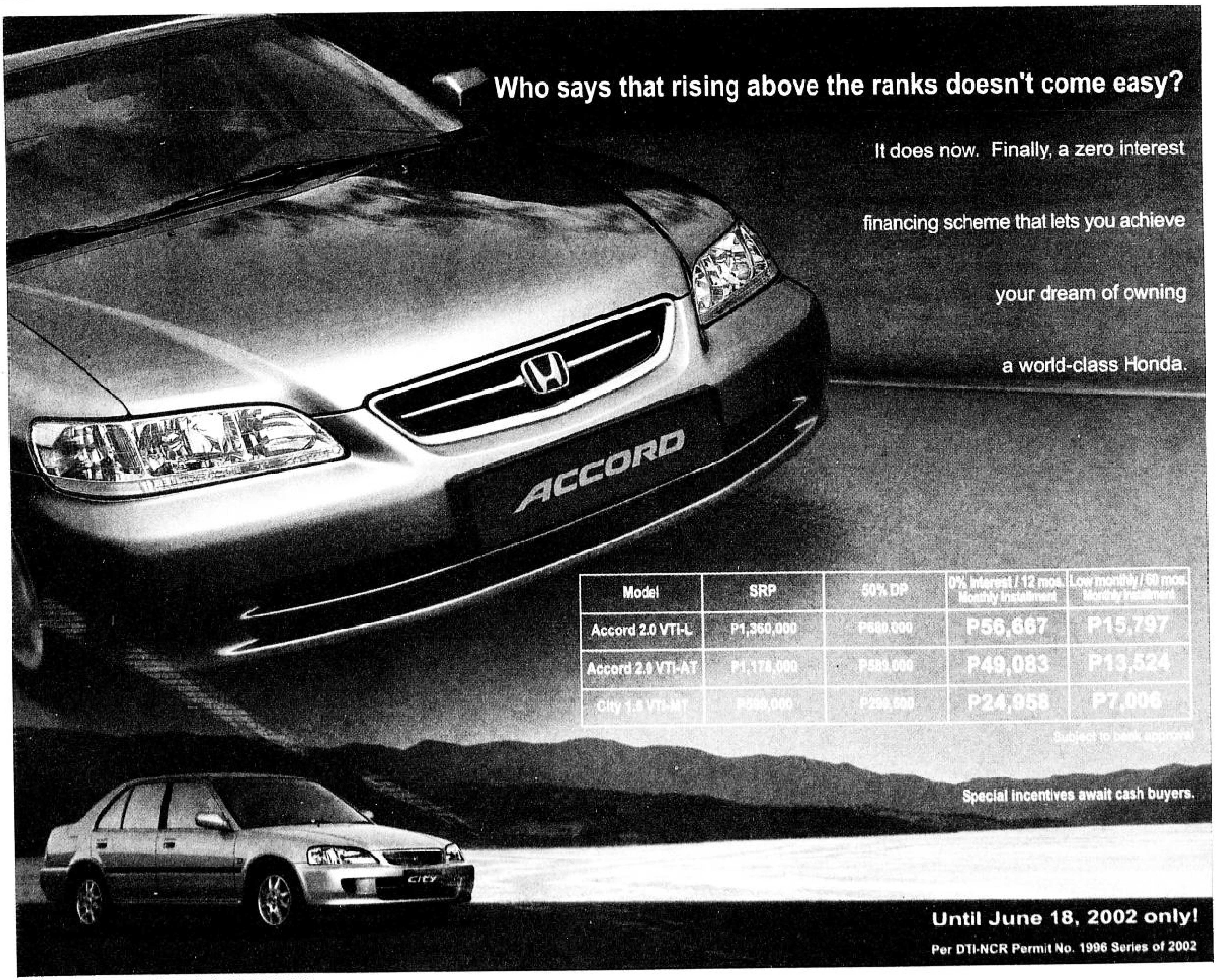

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Mr. John is back and ready for a brawl

From page C1

Pangilinan—the architect behind First Pacific's entry into PLDT and the ambitious Fort Bonifacio development project—has been reported to have teamed up with PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr. for a management-aided buyout.

Big names

Pangilinan and Cojuangco have also reportedly enlisted the support of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. chair George SK Ty, whose financial muscle rivals that of Gokongwei's.

Ty's group has $3 billion in liquid assets that could provide Pangilinan with the financial muscle to better Gokongwei's offer of $925 million.

Also lining up against Gokongwei are fellow taipans Alfonso Yuchengco and Henry Sy.

Yuchengco is a minority shareholder at PLDT and Pangilinan is counting on him, along with Cojuangco, for boardroom support.

Sy's SM Prime Holdings Inc., meanwhile, is seen as a formidable rival to Gokongwei's bid to acquire Metro Pacific's stake in Bonifacio Land.

No stranger to adversity

Gokongwei is no stranger to boardroom wars, and certainly not to life's adversities.

In a long business career that began when he was 13, he had more than once tangled with some of the country's wealthiest families.

Gokongwei was born in 1926 to a life of privilege and wealth, but his father's early death forced him to work at age 13.

When the Japanese invaded the Philippines in 1941, Gokongwei was already the family's breadwinner, dodging roadblocks so he could hawk goods between Cebu and Manila, cramming his wares onto small transport boats.

By the early 1950s, he ventured into manufacturing, building a corn milling plant. With a P500,000 loan from the Sycips' China Bank, Gokongwei put up Universal Corn Products.

First big war

That was when Gokongwei stumbled into his first big corporate tussle. The dominant players at the time worked on putting Gokongwei's upstart firm out of business. They tried cutting their prices, but instead of crippling Universal Corn, the price war claimed a second upstart cornstarch company. That company had, in its employ, a young chemist who lost his job when the company closed down and he had to seek employment with a cigarette company. That chemist's name is Lucio Tan.

Tan would later build his own business empire, and he'd be a regular presence in Gokongwei's affairs.

In 1961, Gokongwei formed Consolidated Food Corp. and took on multinational firm Nestlé Corp. He came up with his first successful brand name, "Blend 45," that broke through the Café Puro-Nescafe duopoly.

After the success of Blend 45, Gokongwei diversified into other food products. In 1966, he formed Universal Robina Corp. and was soon churning out household names like "Chiz Curls," "Chippy" and "Jack and Jill." These were actually imitations of US junk food.

Taking on San Miguel

In 1976, Gokongwei, still little-known among the country's upper business echelons despite his successes, became a fixture in the national consciousness when he sought a seat in the board of San Miguel Corp., a crown jewel of Philippines Inc.

With a cash hoard from the sale of Luzon Stevedoring Co., a company he acquired from the family of banker Jose "Jobo" Fernandez, Gokongwei began acquiring shares of San Miguel in 1972 and by 1976 had about P36 million worth of shares to his name.

He was the sixth-largest shareholder at the time, when he launched his bid to break into San Miguel's board. The 11-man board, however, regarded Gokongwei as a competitor and blocked his bid. He tried twice more to win a board seat, but failed.

Recent tussles

Gokongwei recently tangled up with his old friend, Lucio Tan, over the number of flights to South Korea that his Cebu Pacific Air was entitled to. Tan's Philippine Airlines Inc. had argued that Cebu Pacific was entitled to only one flight, but Cebu Pacific maintained it should get four. In the end, Gokongwei got his way and Cebu Pacific now has three flights to South Korea.

Last year, Gokongwei had a run-in with retail tycoon Henry Sy over a shipyard at the Subic special economic zone. He also won that one, with the Supreme Court ordering Sy's SM group and partner, Keppel, to surrender control of the Philippine Shipyard and Engineering Corp. in Subic in favor of Gokongwei's JG Summit.

A good fight

Gokongwei relishes a good fight, and he relishes winning even more, so he is not about to back down on his latest, and possibly biggest, decision to—for once—be No. 1 in an industry.

He is eager to again square off with the country's biggest and most tenacious businessmen to make sure that PLDT lands in his hands.

He has, after all, been fighting all his life. "All my life, I've been exposed to competition—since the age of 14 up to now. Everyday, I have to compete with San Miguel, with Nestlé, with all the big boys," he says.

As a cursory warning to his rivals, he says, "They always have their weak points."

Can . . .

From page C1

The remaining wild card, as far as the Gokongweis are concerned, is if Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, the second biggest stockholder in PLDT with a 15-percent stake, will decide to exercise its right-of-first-refusal.

NTT has reportedly informed the PLDT board led by its president, Manuel Pangilinan, that it will block Gokongwei's bid, but the company has yet to commit funding for a counter-offer.

Company sources said NTT's biggest handset supplier, NEC Corp. of Japan, was strongly lobbying against Gokongwei, as it has been complaining of the slow settlement of obligations by Gokongwei's telecommunications unit, Digitel, which owes NEC some $330 million.

A source with the Gokongwei camp stressed, however, that should NTT tender a counter-offer, it would have to contend with a constitutional provision barring foreigners from owning more than 40 percent of a Philippine company.

Good for PLDT, Boni

The Gokongweis have said that they have no plans of immediately folding in Digitel to PLDT as expected by the market.

"It's up to the boards of the two companies to decide," Go said.

If there is any positive windfall from the Gokongwei bid as far as the Bonifacio Land side of the deal is concerned, it is the threat that the cash-rich taipan could present if he gets the Fort Bonifacio crown jewel.

Property companies that wanted to cut a deal at fire-sale prices are now taking a fresh look at the Fort Bonifacio project, knowing that a takeover by the cash-rich Gokongwei group will limit their opportunities.

"If the Fort Bonifacio project stays with Metro Pacific—and they know that Metro Pacific is in need of money because of its debts—they have a chance to cut a deal, whether land purchase or lease, at a lower price. But they know they can't do that with the Gokongweis," an analyst said.

Some investors are also worried that the Gokongwei deal will undercut benchmark property prices in Metro Manila since the effective valuation will be at the low end, if not below the P50,000 to P100,000 per square meter range of market prices.

Done deal

As far as the Gokongwei group is concerned, however, it is a done deal.

Parrying accusations of a rising monopoly, a Gokongwei source said: "How can there be a monopoly when there's still Globe (Telecommunications Inc.), ETPI (Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc.) and BayanTel (Bayan Telecommunications Holdings Corp.)? That provision is not applicable in this case."

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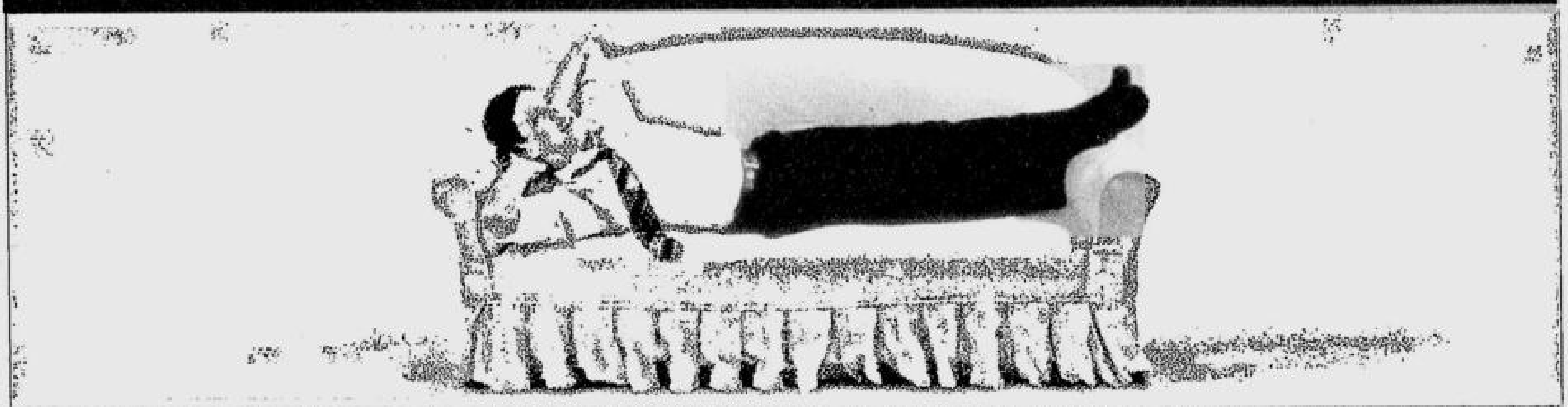

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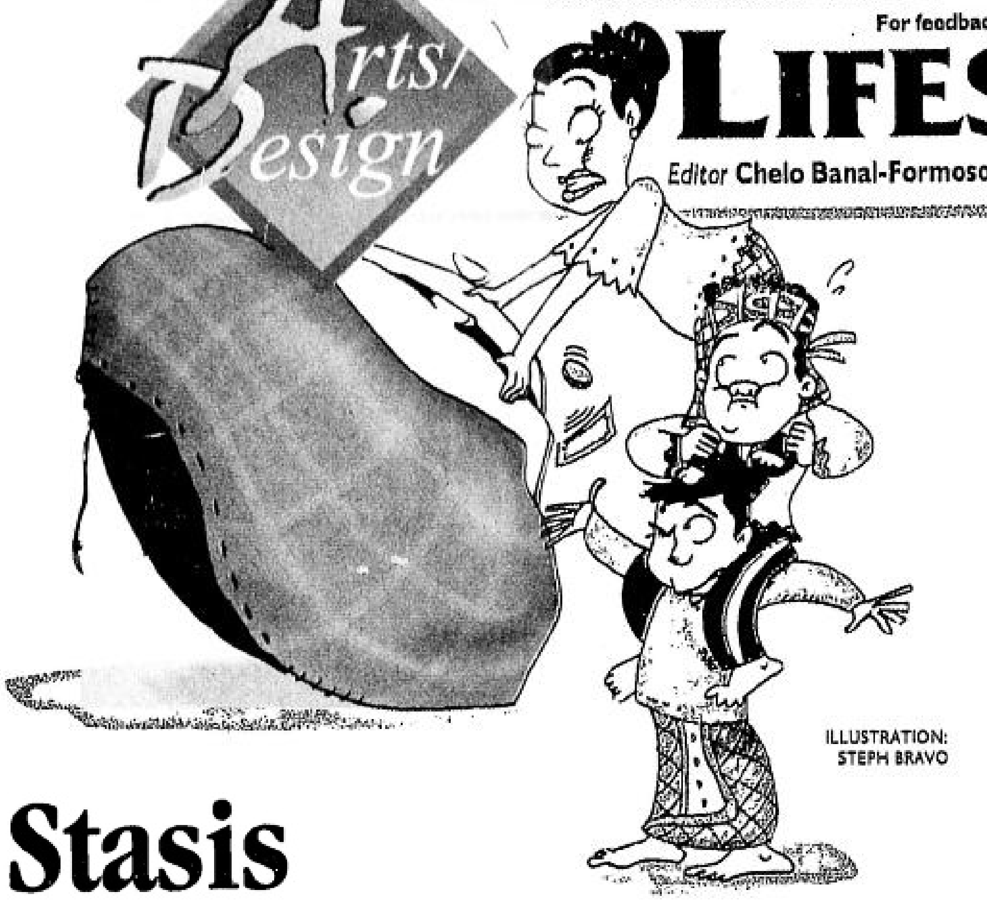

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Stasis in culture and the arts

Workers of the NCCA and the CCP have not been receiving their salaries on time and the budget department has flatly refused to release money for arts and culture programs for a year now. So why is the government holding this week a cultural summit to plan for the next decade?

By Lito B. Zulueta

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts opens this week a two-day Culture and Arts Conference to formulate a number of cultural policies and programs that, as its press announcement says, will be "responsive to the challenges of the next decade." Alas, it is typical of our bureaucracy to set targets for the ineffable future that have no bearing on the here and now. As things stand, public cultural planning may not reach the next decade at all. It will die this minute, the victim of twisted priorities and distorted concessions.

The government does not put money where its mouth is. The cultural agencies have been operating under extreme austerity for some months now. Many employees of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the NCCA have not been receiving their salaries on time. In some instances, regular and contractual employees have received their salaries four months late. Not surprisingly, because the agencies can barely pay their personnel, cultural development and promotion have been put on hold. The cultural agenda of the government, if there is one, is in a stasis.

Last April, the CCP saw its budget slashed from P160 million to P90 million. This surprised the cultural establishment since the past CCP administrations had somehow succeeded in restoring the fiscal health of the country's premiere cultural center, not exactly in the pink of health after the collapse of the Marcos regime in 1986. When inquired about the CCP's share of tobacco taxes in the last

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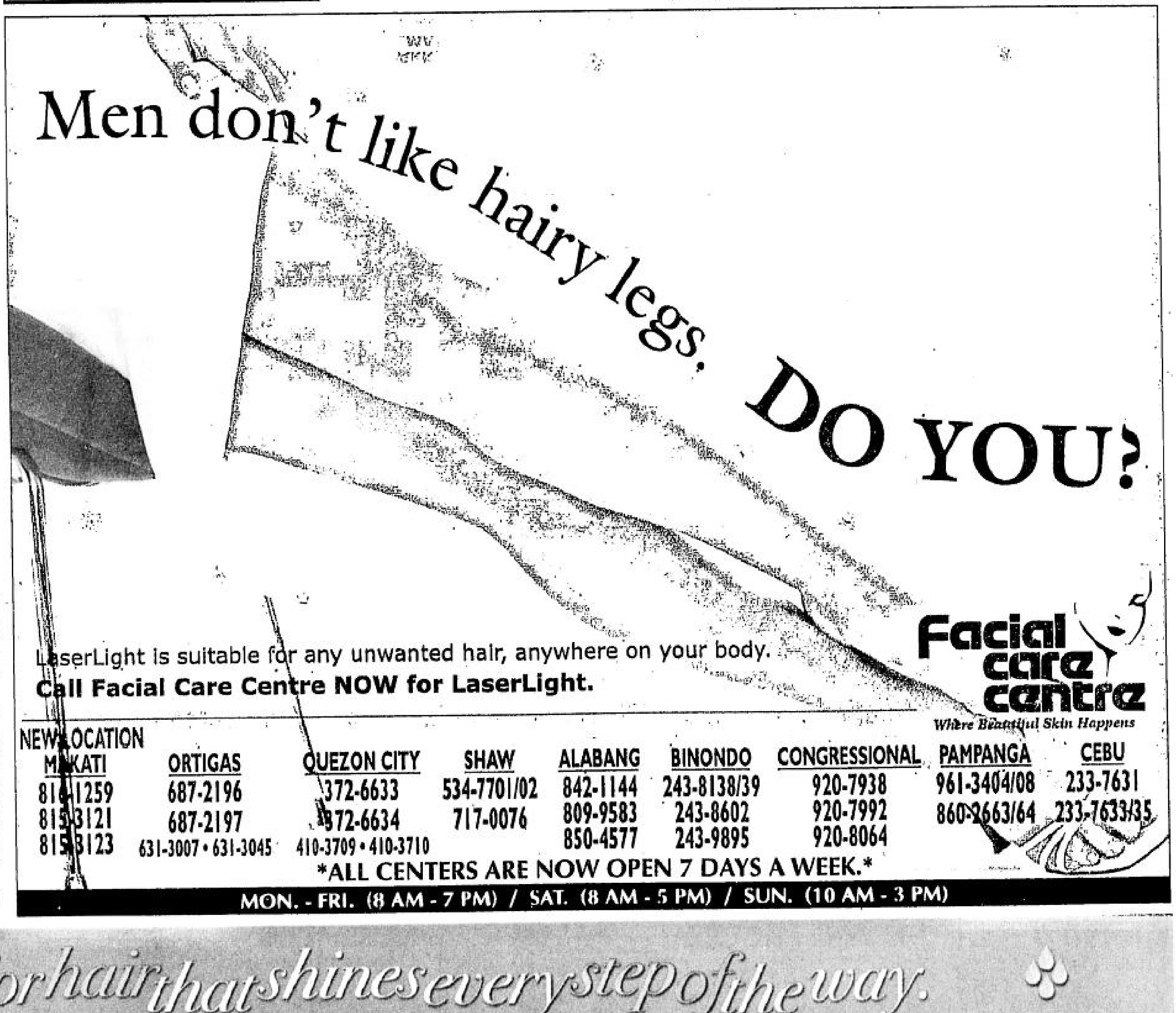

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Modesto in Indonesia, Saturday Group at Art Center, Pacquing at West

VISUAL ARTS

INDONESIA-BASED Filipino artist Fernando Modesto will exhibit his 18 abstract expressionist oil works on June 10-16 at the Shangri-La Hotel in Indonesia as part of the Philippine National Day celebration there. "Indonesia has enriched my visual experience so much," he says. "I came here as a stranger but I have taken more interest in the culture over the years. These influences, together with daily occurrences, thoughts and the context I am presently in, this mixture of East and West, this ad-hoc blending are reflected in my paintings." Modesto won the top prize in the AAP annual contest in the 1980s and was chosen one of Thirteen Artists by the CCP.

THE SATURDAY Group will celebrate its 34th founding anniversary at the Art Center of the SM Megamall on June 15-July 11. Curated by Crucible Gallery, the month-long show features over a hundred works, including interactive works.

FERNANDO Modesto

BERNARDO Pacquing returns to wall markings as revelatory of human nature in "Anthropometric" at the West Gallery in SM Megamall on June 13-25. Call 634-1284.

THE PHOTO exhibit "Loose Pages" by Jun de Leon, with digital imaging leader Epson Phils. Corp., will feature the lensman's never-before-seen works on June 13-15. The works are printed using Epson Stylus Pro 9000 on Epson Premium semigloss photo paper. And to capture the minutest detail, images are scanned using Epson Perfection 2450 Photo desktop scanner.

INO CALUZA presents "Steel Life," featuring moderately large paintings, in oil pastel or acrylic on paper, on June 15-30 at Hiraya Gallery, 530 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila. Call 523-3331.

GALLERIA Duemila features a collection of works by American painter Paton Miller done between 1998 and 1999. Miller's vivid and compelling representations depict connections among people, animals and nature in everyday scenes in places along the coast. The exhibit runs until June 28. Call 634-3261, 831-9990, telefax 633-6687 or 833-9815; (62-21) 725-4859 or visit www.thedigitalmine.com/modesto.

THE ILOILO arts group, Baysulangpu Society, will exhibit its paintings all over Iloilo City on June 17-July 27. "X-Haust" is a collection of paintings in oil, acrylic and mixed media. Participating artists are Arnold Almacen, Joemarie Ami, Onofre Ballescas III, Lyle Baxinela, Edmar Colmo, Angelo Duarte, Domingo Dumdumaya, Wiljess Garcia, Melvin Guirhem, Yannie Rose Noble, Frank Alexi Nobleza and James Mark Salarda. Exhibit venues are Amigo Terrace Hotel, Mary Mart Mall, The Atrium, Galsano City, Robinsons Plaza and SM City.

"LANDSCAPES and Flowers" is running until June 15 at the Saturday Group Art Gallery, 2/F Ali Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, QC.

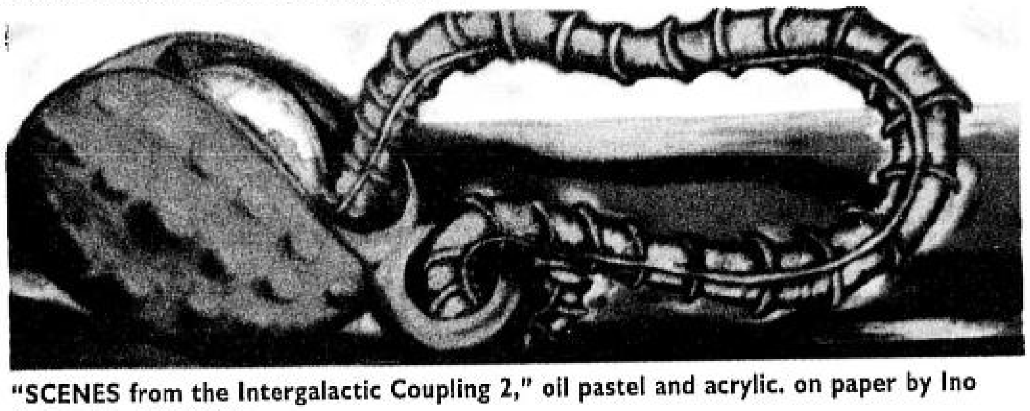
Participating artists include Keith Paras, Ben Infante, Jess Alfonso, Max Sumulong, Rudy Lunod, Cris Cruz, Jonah Salvosa, Fernando Sena, Wilson Ma, Bing Siochi, Fernando Catague, Ana de Leon, Gerricho Blanco, Fidel Sarmiento, Dante Castillo, Magoo Valencia, Jerome Malic, Frank Verano, Mauro Malang Santos, Naning Estrella, Ana Yap, Elmer Invento, Larry Lim, Rafael Asuncion, Merci Melchor and Cesar de la Paz. Call 911-1428.

SERENA Gerona Borras holds her first solo show of works in oil, watercolor and batik paint on stained glass until June 28 at SSS Gallery on East Avenue, QC. The artist is a member of the International Society for Education through Arts.

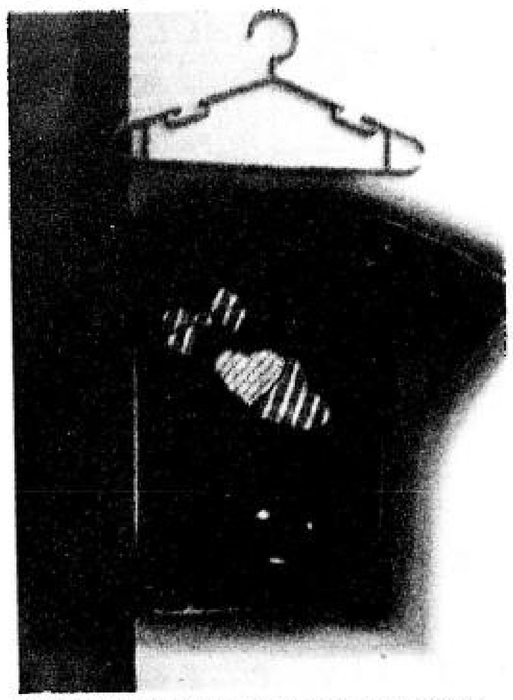
THE EXHIBIT "A Canuck Looks Down Under," consisting of photographs of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which is celebrating its 70th year, and other Australian landmarks and icons by Neil Gordon Lees, opens tonight at the Australia Centre.

THE GOETHE-INSTITUT Inter Nationes Manila presents "Esprit and Common Sense," an exhibit on German industrial design at the Gilin Library, 687 Aurora Blvd., QC, until June 23. The Design Center Munich has put together a wide range of German industrial design pieces, among them the classic VW Beetle, the Thonet chair and Leica-Generation cameras, as well as pieces by Wilhelm Wagenfeld, Mart Stam or Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Call 722-4671 to -73 or 722-4673.

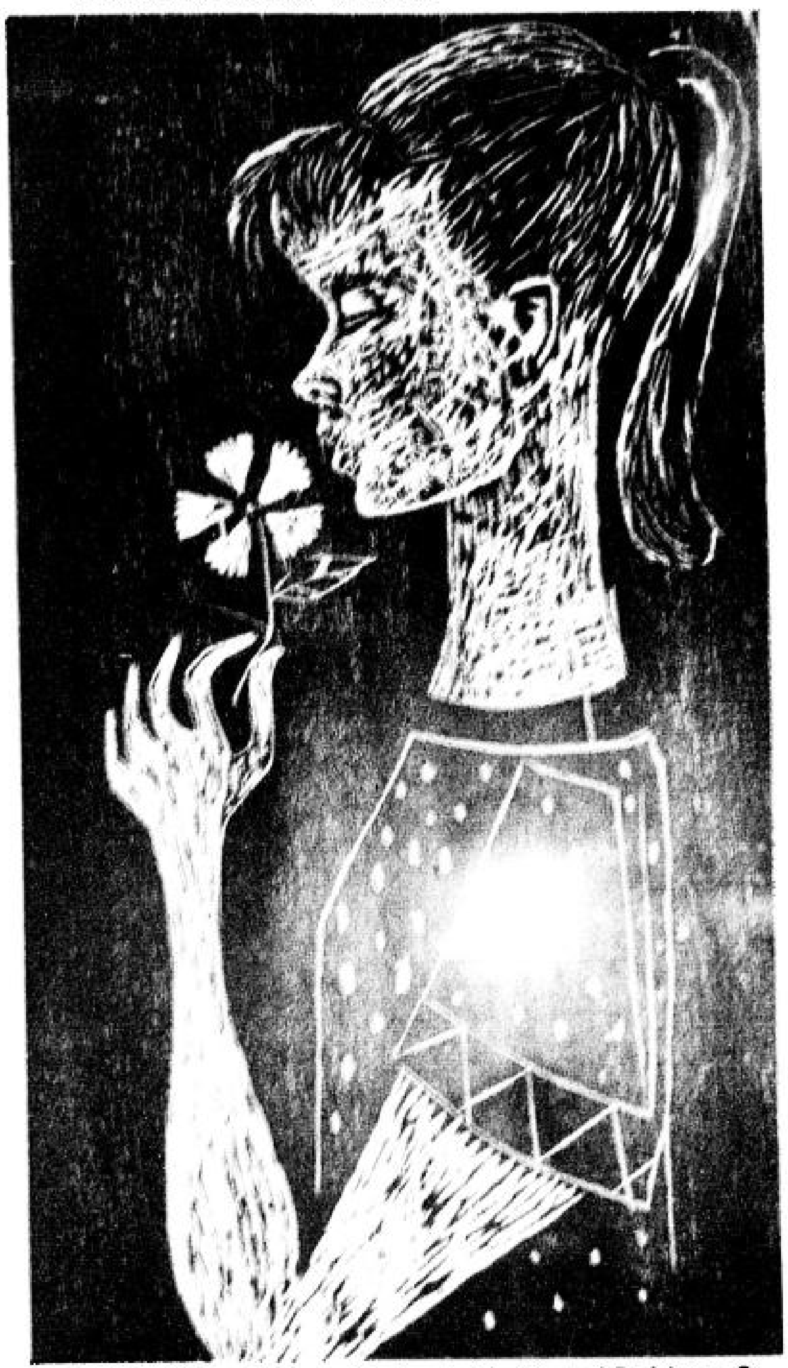
THE ALCOVE Photo Gallery is offering courses for amateur photographers and hobbyists. Photo 101: Basic 35-mm Photography by Kat C. Palasi, a graduate of the International Center of Photography in New York, and Vir Montecastro, a photo consultant, focuses on the fundamentals of photography. Photo 301: A Primer on Studio Lighting by Jay Alonzo tackles lighting.



"SCENES from the Intergalactic Coupling 2," oil pastel and acrylic. on paper by Ino Caluza Jr., at Hiraya



"PABORITO Kong Damit," mixed media by James Mark Salarda, in Iloilo exhibit



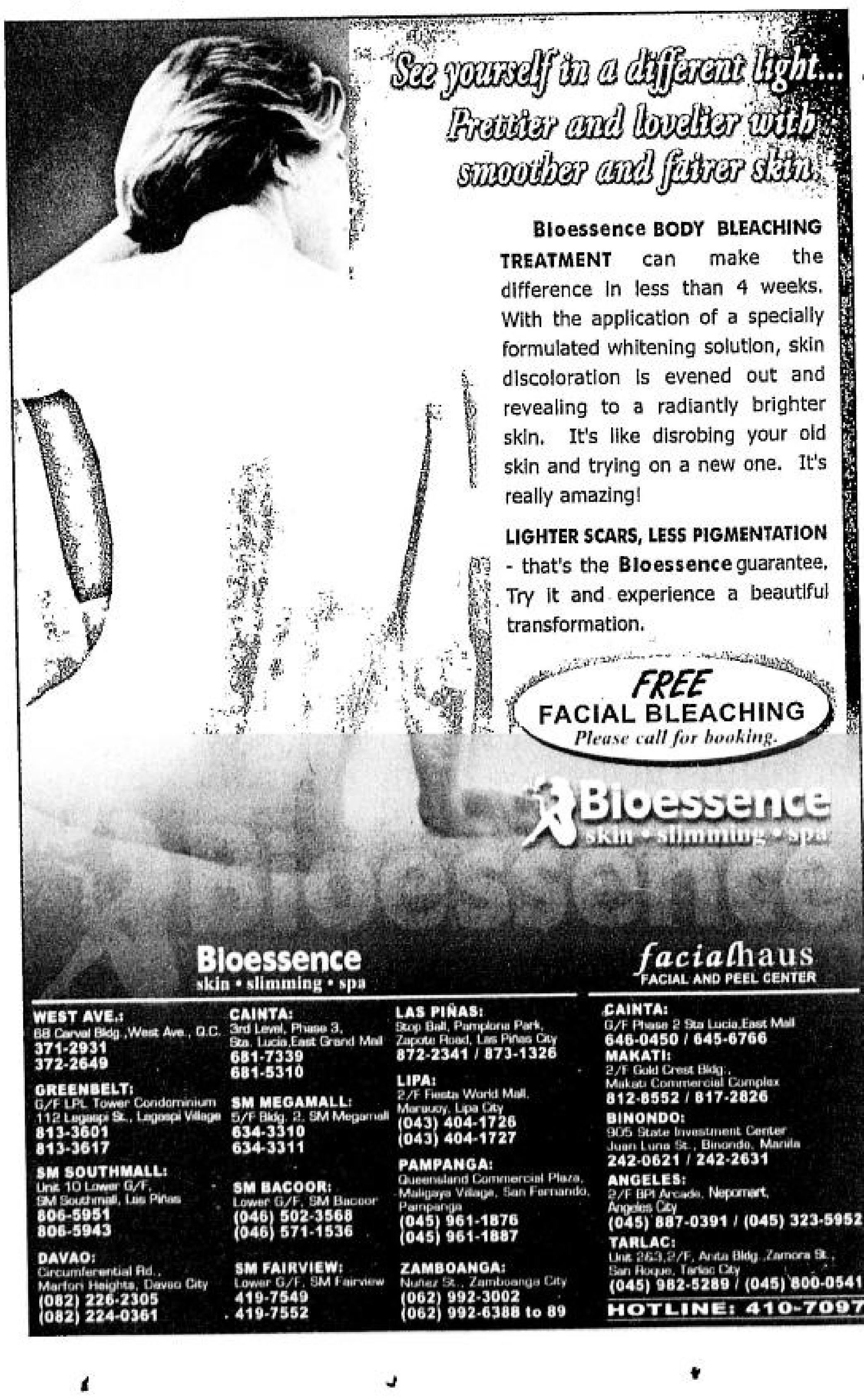
"A GIRL, a Flower," a woodblock print by Manuel Rodriguez Sr., is part of Galeria de las Islas' latest exhibit, "Fine Art Prints," a collection of serigraphs, etchings, lithographs, woodblocks and collographs by Virgilio Aviado, Ojeng Jocano, F.V. Adriano, Antonio Doctor Garcia, Restituto Embuscado, Emeterio Valente. The exhibit opens today and runs until July 6. Galeria de las Islas is on the 3/F Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 527-2113.

Filipiniana clothes exhibit at Manila Midtown

THE MANILA Midtown Hotel in Ermita is celebrating the 104th Independence Day of the Philippines on June 10-30. As part of the celebration, Philtrade Exhibits, with select Philippine fashion designers, is exhibiting Filipiniana clothes at the main lobby of the hotel. This is to give awareness to the public of the style and traditional design of Philippine clothes as interpreted by designers Ivan de la Cruz, Francis Calaquian, Johnny Abad, Jon Espeleta, Dennis Martin, Edna Encarnacion and Glenn Lopez.

A luncheon Filipiniana clothes presentation is scheduled on June 10 to be participated by Philippine beauty queens at the Vogue Coffee Shop. Also on exhibit during the fair are hand-woven textiles from Mountain Province, select deli from different regions of the country, and exquisite handicraft from Mindanao.

Call Philtrade Exhibits at 820-7879/1570.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Journal of Philippine visual arts

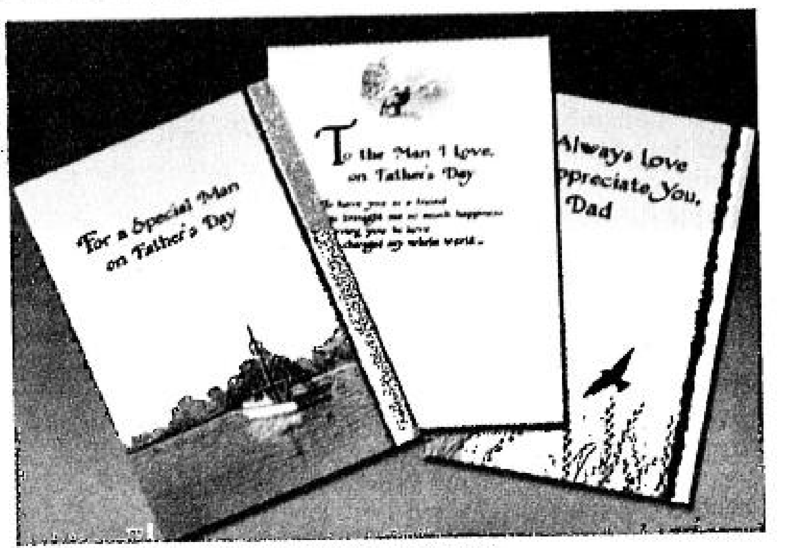
THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) has recently released Pananaw 4: Philippine Journal of Visual Arts. The full-color publication explores Luzon visual arts through photographs and essays by respected art critics, curators and visual artists. The book is edited by Imelda Cajipe-Endaya and Florina H. Capistrano-Baker, and designed by Norberto Roldan.

4
In Gods We Trust

Pananaw 4's contributing writers include Patrick D. Flores, Reuben R. Cañete, Ma. Teodora Conde-Prieto, Flaudette May V. Datuin, Lourdes Lee Valeriano, Pearlie S. Baluyut, Jose Tence Ruiz and Nona Garcia. Among the topics discussed are the contextualization of Luzon contemporary visual art, the growth of regional art and contemporary Filipino-American art in New York.

The Pananaw series is geared toward a thorough examination of the visual arts scene in the Philippines. Book 1 discusses the national scene in relation to the developments in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as new movements in art theory. Book 2 focuses on Mindanao; Book 3 on the Visayas. The series is a project of the NCCA Committee on Visual Arts with the assistance of the Committee on Art Galleries.

The Pananaw series is available at the NCCA Building in Intramuros at P1,000. Back issues are available. The journal may also be purchased at select bookstores. Call 527-5529/2192 local 614.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FILIPINOS ATTEND ISRAEL PROCESSION
The diversity of the worldwide Bahai community was evident when more than 3,000 delegates from 182 countries recently made their way up the 19 Terraces of Mount Carmel, Haifa, Israel, in a spirit of devotion. The historical procession was a showcase of the human garden, resplendent in all its races and colors representing the six million adherents of the Bahai International community. Eleven representatives from the Philippines attended this historical gathering.

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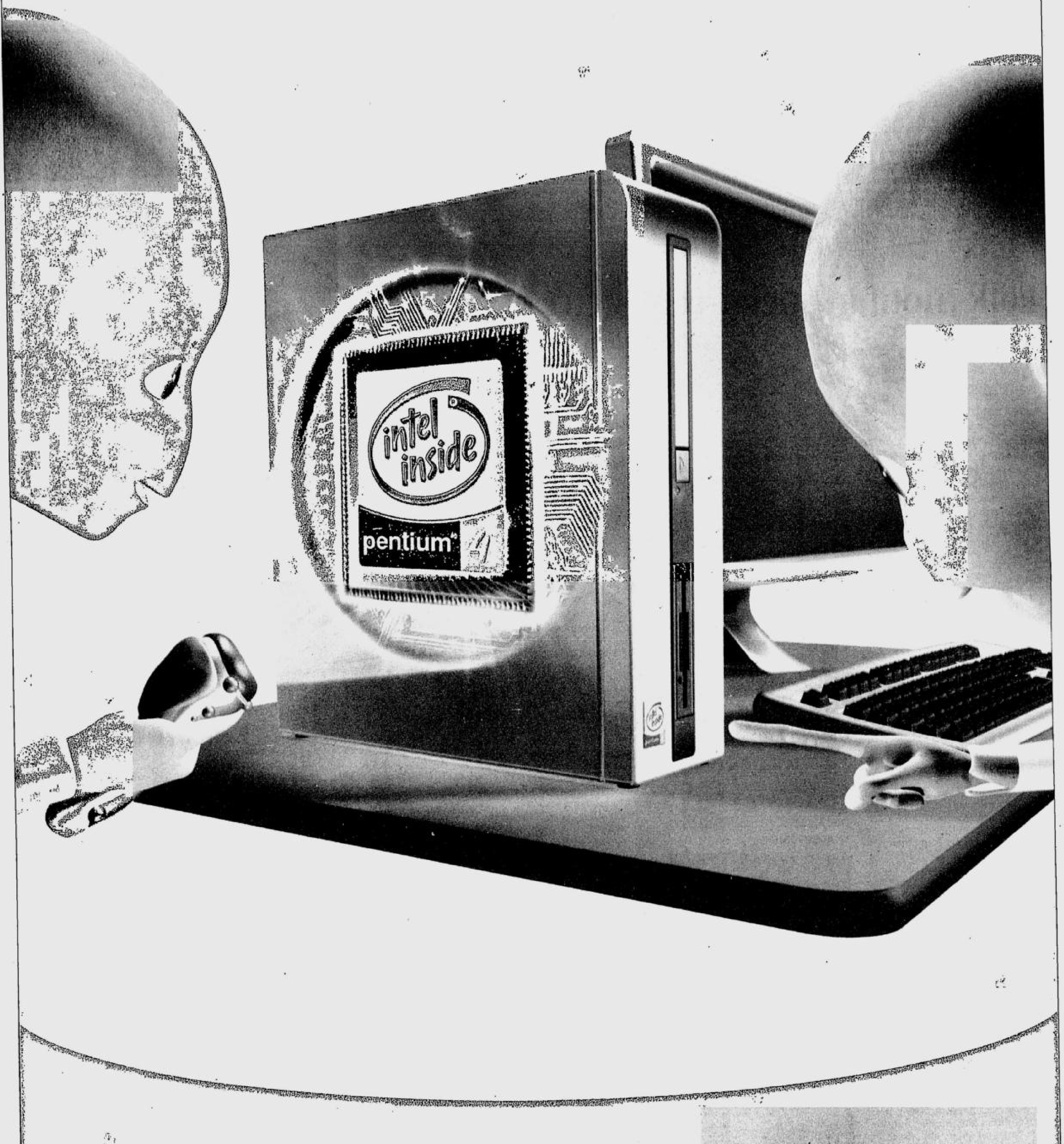

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RAUL ISIDRO'S MONOPRINTS

A rare hybrid of print and painting

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

IT comes as no surprise that leading abstract artist Raul Isidro has renewed his romance with printmaking. Having become totally enamored with his earlier experiments in monoprint the past couple of years, Isidro had worked feverishly in the planographic process of printmaking with its entirely new mode and systems that further stimulated his creative juices.

The result? A new body of prints that primarily delves into the ecological theme.

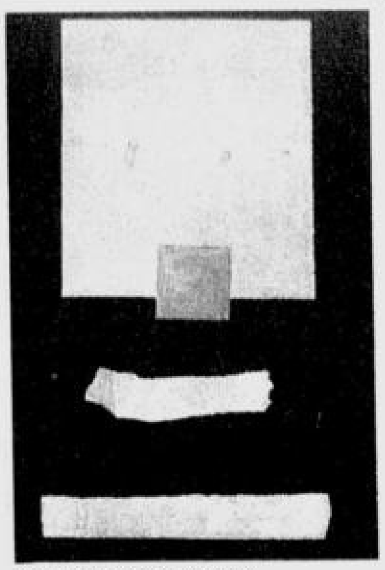
The transition from painting to printmaking was, in itself, a slow and equally painstaking process for the artist. When Isidro assumed the post of president of the Printmakers Association of the Philippines (PAP) last year, he realized he had to practice what the group preaches.

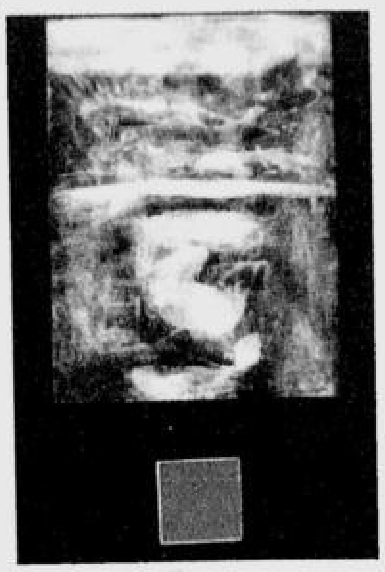
Besides, being at the helm of the highly mobile, 30- year-old body of print aficionados had brought him into contact with the various facets of printmaking, intaglio, relief, rubbercut, the works and the whole gamut of printing images they produce. It was only a matter of time for him to get hooked with the wonders of monoprint, without having to completely abandon his career as an abstract painter of no mean reputation.

Isidro's month-long show, his 43rd since 1969, at the Luz Gallery crosses over into an entirely bold terrain teeming with all kinds of possibilities.

Still recognizable, of course, are his continuing elaborations on the Mother Earth theme—his spatial views of the planet—which come in predominantly black configurations featuring curvilinear lines and strokes that unpredictably materialize in the vast space, further broken down into planar sections and echoing the same boldness of spirit, but conjuring contrasting hues and gestural touches that are unmistakably Isidro's.

Ever the astute technician, especially in a medium where precision is paramount in achieving the desired effect, Isidro has wisely opted to work in larger-sized, high-quality, German-made, pure organic paper. This has given the artist enough room to control the process of transferring the image, not to mention the impact that works of this dimension would create on the viewer.


"SOUTHERN Motif"


"RED Square"

THE ARTIST with his new works

In all of these pieces meticulously executed in monoprint, Isidro has deviated from the printmaking norm where copies can be normally made or reproduced.

In monoprint, applying printing ink on a flat surface and transferring the it to paper later makes a one-of-a-kind impression. The intention is, indeed, to make just one copy— the artist's sole copy—and the final output being an all-original edition, instead of the usual multiple editions.

There are other innovative works in the show to entice gallery-goers interested in his evolution, or that of printmaking itself.

In a suite of smaller-sized pieces, measuring 15 ½" x 19 ½", the artist focuses on contrasting views, mainly consisting of a bigger frame where the imagery of a particular subject or location is more intimately delineated, and a much smaller window underneath it, perhaps, is taken from the vantage point of a more remote distance.

Here we see references to actual or fictional sites ("Green Pond," "Civic Center," "Blue Pond,"), allusions to global changes ("Two Seasons," "Red Landscape," "Red Seas"), and homages to personages famous or unknown ("Tablet of Christ," "Miro's World," "Juggler's World").

In both these suites of varying dimensions, the artist's trademark calligraphic gestures vie for attention, either as a decorative motif to break the prevailing, streamlined structure, or simply as a device to create spatial tension and release the otherwise enclosed energy within the frame.

In this show, Isidro has developed his unique way of articulating his views and visions of grave ecological concern. By taking both the global and microcosmic sites for artistic discourse, from outward to inward, from image to meaning, the artist has made it possible for us, protagonists all in this protracted war to save Mother Earth from total destruction, to elevate the very purpose of our existence—life itself.

For comments, e-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com.

Folk motif in social-realist art

By Constantino C. Tejero

ANYONE who has been to the public market of Tacloban, Leyte, would have seen these richly colored, lavishly decorated mats. Made of *buri* or *buntal*, they're cool to the skin, so soft in texture and fine in craftsmanship one would think only infants are fit to lay their heads on them.

These intricate mat patterns dominated the 17 pieces of pen and ink on paper in Raul Agner's recent exhibit "Drawings" at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

"Since I come from a region that produces richly decorated mats, I have been using the mat as a folk artistic motif and symbol for my community's ever changing and challenging social conditions," says Agner, who hails from Palo, Leyte.

The pieces are carefully composed and finely detailed, with symmetry, exquisite patterns and formal elegance that make them look like illustrations on playing cards. This is not quite folk art, but social realism utilizing folk motif, reminiscent of the book illustrations done by Diego Rivera.

"The drawings are about the ordinary people in the community where I live," says the artist. "They focus on people's continuing pursuit of a better life, the forces that control them, the issues that affect them, their best and worst qualities."

Flat statements

The pieces are often hortatory, and sometimes they border on satire with a surrealist edge. The flat statements would be boring if not for the masterful draftsmanship.

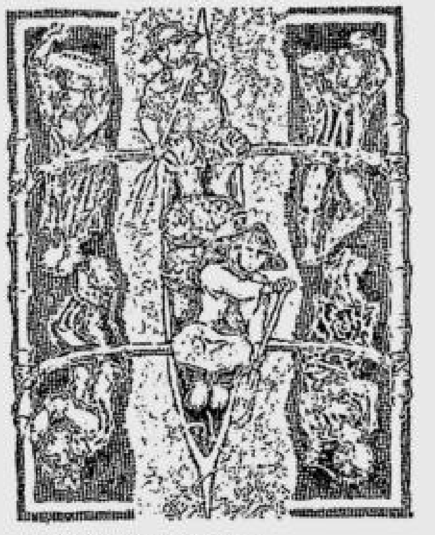
In "Magtaralwas" (Liberator), three men and two women are strapped to a mat while a central figure of a man with a halo, a yoke on his shoulders, and a sheathed bolo on his hip, is breaking his own straps. He is obviously the *pesante* as Christ figure.

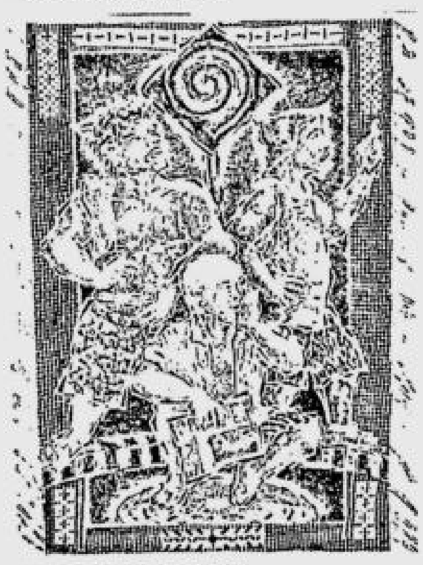
In "Plataporma" (Platform), a man in *barong* with a flowery heart is gesturing like the Sagrado Corazon in a niche, with the folk as audience. Beneath is a TV set showing a dancing pair, while on the sides are subliminal images of hands grasping beer bottle, chainsaw, money bundle, wine bottle, armalite, and a scantily clad woman. This is obviously a portrait of a politico.

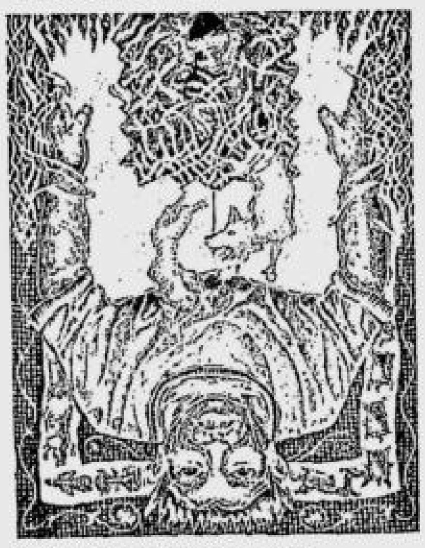
"Hukip" (Bribe) has small human figures queueing up to a looming central figure and receiving money bills from him, while below is a figure strapped upside down with arms outstretched as if crucified.

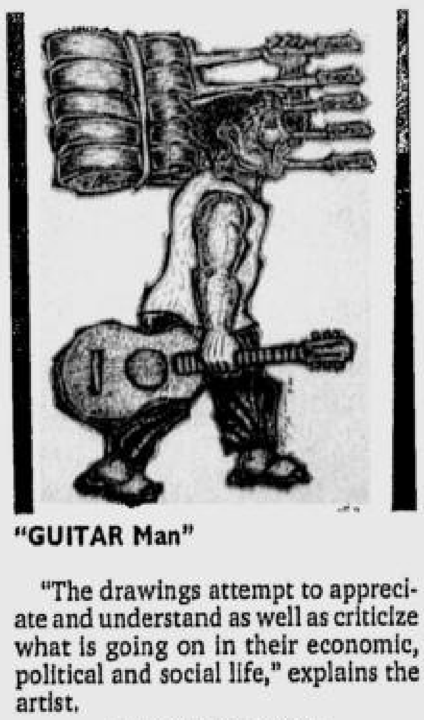
"Biyahe" (Trip) shows a tricycle overburdened with seven passengers, while overhead is a picture of the San Juanico Bridge, and four men in *barong* talking of cable cars and clouds, obviously government officials and bureaucrats.

The most platitudinous in this series is "Pagsalikway" (Betrayal), a portrait of a tearful woman with all limbs strapped and surrounded by subliminal images of fish, wildlife, trees, *nipa* huts, while overhead a row of figures with backs turned are waving to a huge hand coming out of the sky and proffering a money bill. This is obviously a portrait of Mother Philippines.


"KONTRA-SULOG"


"MAGSINGGITON"


"THE NEWS Next Door"


"GUITAR Man"

"The drawings attempt to appreciate and understand as well as criticize what is going on in their economic, political and social life," explains the artist.

Surrealist edge

We like better the plain portraits, the small vignettes, or those with the surrealist edge, such as "Kontra-Sulog" (Countercurrent), a family portrait in which the man and wife are rowing a fishing boat while their four grownup children are sleeping on mats beneath the outriggers.

Or "The News Next Door," where a quarrelling couple and a cat and dog tear up and burst out of the newspaper being read by a man supine on a mat. The startled man is surrounded by flowering vines and crawling buglike objects such as beer bottle, coconut shredder, microphone, which could be part of the mat's pattern.

Or "Paspasero" (Speedster), a close-up of an ever-so-cool jeepney driver with the smaller figures of his anxious passengers, the image notable for the cropping and arrangement of figures.

Then there's "Magsinggiton" (Hecklers), a menacing yet funny portrait of three brawny punks heckling at someone or something, shouting and giving the finger.

The more charming pieces are the smaller ones, such as "Guitar Man," a hawker of guitars. Or "High Note," a videoke king with all the screaming and gyration.

"Kangkong Woman" shows a robust woman peddling a bundle of *kangkong*, who appears rather menacing for the bolo on her side, the water canteen on her hip looking like a hand grenade, the strap across her chest looking like a bandoleer, and her boots looking like the footwear of fascists.

"Father's Day" depicts a potbellied man smoking a cigarette and quaffing from a beer bottle while carrying a child in one arm, obviously a husband left to tend the house while the wife is at work.

The most charming in this series is "Shopaholic," showing a woman overdressed and overburdened with goodies, sipping drink through a straw. With her sturdy legs, striped skirt and determined face, she looks like a woman of the Cordillera stepping down from the rice terraces.

Deep sympathy

Agner took up philosophy at Adamson University, and his master's degree in anthropology at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City.

For 16 years he worked as curator of the Divine Word University Museum in Tacloban. For three years he represented Eastern Visayas at the national committee on visual arts of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

He has had no formal art studies aside from numerous workshops he attended, ranging from installation art to basic drawing, printmaking, paper sculpture, photographic silkscreen printing. This was his first solo exhibit.

"Ordinary people's struggle for a better life and how this can be conveyed subtly and meaningfully, in a folk artistic way, are my simple concerns as artist," he says.

This is not just lip service, as it can be readily gleaned from his art and years of community service. The images in the exhibit could not but come from someone who had deep sympathy for the common folk and a deeper antipathy toward their exploiters.

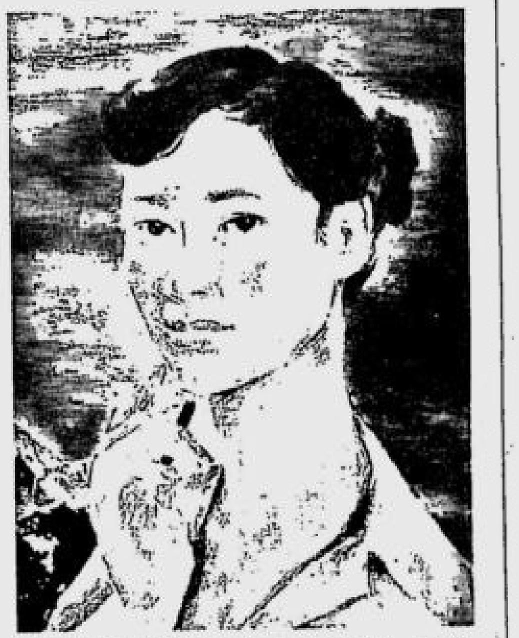
"I think art is about connecting to people," Agner continues, "learning from them and, in return, creating works that can be sources of insight, inspiration and empowerment."

Here's one artist who's not just a keen observer and a sharp critic of society but is actually close to the heartbeats of his people.

My art mentor, Anita Magsaysay-Ho

By Marcia E. Sandoval
Contributor

AN ART class with Anita Magsaysay Ho begins in a hush. We are in awe. She walks in, greeting us warmly with a full smile that makes her Chinese eyes disappear. She inches her way in, not necessarily because she has to walk slowly, but because we waylay her with hugs and kisses.


"SELF-PORTRAIT," egg tempera, 1950

Since February, she has been teaching us the fine points of painting. We are seven in a class that Anita herself organized at the Makati Garden Club. She chose the place herself, a rare wooded oasis in the corner of Edsa and Ayala Avenue. She conducts the class once a week, a full Tuesday afternoon. She is never late or absent, not even on Chinese New Year when she hosted lunch and then a big dinner for her family.

Class begins as soon we sit down before our easels. We work with oil on canvas. Anita gives us the assignment for the day. This afternoon we are to copy the work of a favorite artist. This method, she explains, is the best way to learn directly the artist's technique, such as mixing colors. Moreover, in copying, we get into the artist's soul, absorbing some of his psyche.

Anita says: "This is the way to self-learn. This is the way of the art school. Copy, copy, copy. Look for the details. Copy in detail. Be careful of the measurements. Measure, measure, measure all of the time. Look for the angles. You will be astonished how easily you can develop your own style through copying. If you want to paint, go ahead and paint, but set aside another canvas for copying a master. You will go far this way."

Anita is most kind as a teacher. She is patient, with a fervent eagerness for all of us to learn. She is careful in her teaching techniques, delicate in her instructions and patient in her desire for us to absorb her ways.

"No one will scold you," she says when one of us reacts to an apparent mistake. "Do not be too hard on yourself," she says when we show frustration. "You do not have to please me," she says when we say that we think that our work does not come up to her expectation.

She sits before each of our canvases, takes the brush and shows us how to do the painting. We stand behind her as she takes over the canvas. She hums softly as she handles the brush that she knows so well. She has time for each of us, all seven of us for the entire afternoon. She does not give lectures, only actual tutoring.

Before she became our art mentor, Anita was first and foremost our dearest friend. Her friendship knows no bounds. She is always there for each of us. To be her friend is a privilege, because she poses no barriers. She goes all out for her friends. She is very thoughtful.

With these art classes, I feel that she is leaving us a legacy that is her very own. She introduces us to her world of art, a world of inner beauty and creativity. Shyly and ever graciously, she is imprinting her own fulfillment on us.

The world of art is Anita's life. In her home by the Manila Bay, she paints for many hours each day. Her favorite medium is egg tempera, the medium she started with. However, she is famous for her oil paintings.

> "If you want to paint, go ahead and paint, but set aside another canvas for copying a master," says the master herself

She is the only living Filipino painter to have a work auctioned off by Christie's at P15 million. Today both Sotheby's and Christie's auctioneers eagerly accept Magsaysay-Ho paintings, proof that she has an avid following internationally. Whenever Anita has a show, all the paintings are sold even before opening day. Some buyers come from other parts of the world. All earnings go to the A. Magsaysay Foundation.

Even as a child, Anita was always drawing. She received formal art lessons for the first time at age 9. By special accommodation, she was accepted at age 13 to the UP School of Fine Arts, while attending high school at the Philippine Women's University. She studied at the Art Students League in New York City and then at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan.

She is married to Robert Ho. They have homes in Vancouver, Hong Kong and Manila. "In the meantime, I do what I accomplish well and love to do—paint," she said in her exquisitely written autobiography published in April.

"Set aside another canvas for copying a master," Anita says. In our class, we have come to see her as that master. Measure for measure, angle for angle, detail for detail, she is the master with whom we would be wise to keep pace.

Overwhelmingly she is also our dear friend, precious as only a friend of many years can be, and the kindest art mentor we can ever hope to find.

Stasis in culture and the arts

From page D1

several years, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin reportedly told the CCP leadership to forget about it. The government's coffers are empty.

Last April, NCCA Executive Director Fina Yonson announced the appointment by President Macapagal-Arroyo of Tourism Undersecretary Evelyn Pantig as chair of the NCCA. Although Pantig had been acting chair of the NCCA since Jaime Laya resigned last year, the news that she had been appointed permanently to the post after a rather secretive nomination process did not exactly stabilize the arts and culture regime. It merely whitewashed what had been evident all along: the arts and culture regime was a sepulcher.

Standstill

In fact, since Pantig became acting chair, there had hardly been a stir in the cultural regime. This was because no money was being released for NCCA projects. This poor state of things could not be exactly blamed on her since even before, when the new government took over, NCCA activities had been on a standstill.

Last April 19, the Committee on Literary Arts of the NCCA met the announcement of Pantig's permanent appointment with a letter asking for her plans. It noted that since the CLA's new officers took over in June last year, it had implemented not a single program. Although responses from the Commission level would invariably cite certain administrative procedures for the programs to be fulfilled, the CLA officers noted that they were merely polite bureaucratese to turn down or defer the programs. In some instances, even if the programs had been approved by the Commission itself, they remain unimplemented. Worse, organizers undertook NCCA-approved programs even without NCCA funding. The organizers loaned the money from other sources just to push through with the programs.

One of the programs that had to be abandoned because of the tight financial situation of the NCCA was the 9th Iligan National Writers Workshop. The Committee had approved the Mindanao program in its meeting last March and elevated the matter to the Commission, hoping it would forthwith approve it and release the funding. To its dismay during its April meeting, the CLA found the matter returned to its level, the Commission citing certain administrative reasons that did not betray its preference to.have the program dropped.

The Commission's response was a slap on Mindanao. As a Mindanao writers' representative in the CLA, poet-fictionist Jaime An Lim, noted, Mindanao programs do not even amount to a percentage of the NCCA's funding for the arts and culture. Ironically, the Mindanao writers workshop is hosted by Iligan City, where President Macapagal-Arroyo had spent a good part of her childhood, which has been memorialized in the house where she had stayed that has become some sort of a presidential museum.

But why can't the NCCA fund programs for the arts and culture? Why is it so severely cash-strapped that it cannot even fund programs that are its reason for being in the first place? Where did the money go?

The NCCA derives its operations budget from the General Appropriations Act (GAA). It gets its money to fund arts and culture programs from the National Endowment for Culture and the Arts (Nefca). The endowment is built from the NCCA's share of earnings from Pagcor and other resource-mobilization schemes of government. The endowment is mandated by the law that established the NCCA, which is supposed to administer it.

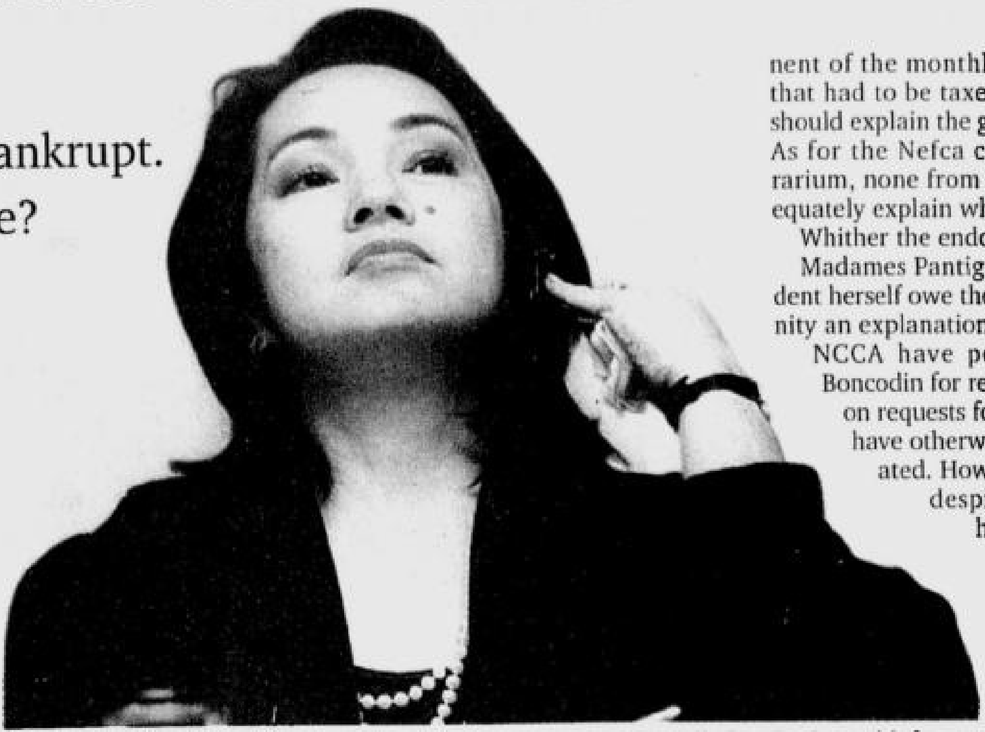
Since there has practically been no funding for the arts and culture for almost a year now, does that mean that the Nefca has dried up? If so, where did the NCCA's share of Pagcor earnings and other sources go?

The national endowment for the arts is practically bankrupt. Where has the money gone?

No more funds

By all indications, the Nefca has disappeared. This is evident in the honorarium that officers of the different NCCA committees receive for their monthly meetings. They are usually given a P500 stipend for coming from the different corners of the archipelago to hold their monthly meetings and discuss committee programs. More correctly, they receive P450 after tax.

Last April 19, the CLA officers were surprised when they received a P180 honorarium instead. It turned out that the P500 honorarium was drawn from the GAA (P200) and the Nefca (P300). The NCCA secretariat told them that it could only give the GAA component of the monthly honorarium and even that had to be taxed by 10 percent—which should explain the generous P180 allowance. As for the Nefca component of the honorarium, none from the secretariat could adequately explain what happened to it.



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will keynote the summit while her budget chief, who holds office in Malacañang, bars funding for the arts.

Whither the endowment for the arts?

Madames Pantig, Boncodin and the President herself owe the arts and culture community an explanation. Insiders of the CCP and NCCA have pointed in particular to Boncodin for rejecting or deferring action on requests for the release of funds that have otherwise been already appropriated. How else can one explain that despite the fact their salaries have already been appropriated, NCCA and CCP employees do not receive their pay on time? As for the endowment, how can Boncodin reject the release of funds that have been endowed by law for the development and promotion of culture and the arts?

Pork barrel

In contrast, Malacanang and the budget department are quick to release the Countrywide Development Fund, or pork barrel, of congressmen and senators. Much of the fund goes to insipid projects such as the construction of horrendous waiting sheds and other structures (more like obstructions really) that are ostensibly for public service but which are mere vehicles for unabashed political advertising and self-glorification. It goes to the construction of basketball courts on public roads and streets and other forms of patronage to destitute barangay where people remain impoverished because money for poverty alleviation go to corruption, patronage and inanities.

It is time for the government to stop paying lip service to culture and the arts. In the aftermath of Edsa 1986, culture was depreciated owing to the baggage of the Imeldific years and the need to adopt an extreme survival mode amid the general bankruptcy of government. As a spokesman of the new government during those years said, "Culture is not a priority." Since then, culture has never been a priority despite the establishment of the NCCA and a host of cultural agencies that merely reflect the Filipino fetish for regimentation and bureaucratization. The priorities have always been patronage and pork barrel. If the government has fostered any culture, it's the culture of sycophancy, mendicancy, and thievery.

The National Conference on Culture and the Arts will be held at the Pearl Manila Hotel on General Luna St., Ermita, Manila on June 13-14. Keynote speaker is President Macapagal-Arroyo. Call 527-2198 or –2192 locals 610 and 611.

NEW NCCA chair Evelyn Pantig: Presiding over a carcass?

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Intramuros Evenings features jazz artists

INTRAMUROS Evenings Performing Arts Series features the Buhay Jazz Band on Friday, June 14, 6:30 p.m. at the Baluarte de San Diego Gardens. Led by noted sax player, Tots Tolentino, Buhay is composed of Wowee Posadas on keyboards, Meong Pacana on electric and acoustic bass, and Mar Dizon on drums and percussion. Some pieces in the repertoire are "Flunk," "Oras ng Ligaya," "Bakit Pa?", "Superstar ng Buhay Ko," "GVHL," "Zamar," "Y2K" and "Dandansoy."

Band leader Tots Tolentino is described by critics as "passionate and energetic," as well as "articulate and authoritative." He became a member of the Asian Jazz Allstars upon the invitation of Asia's premiere jazzman, Terumasa Hino. Wowee Posadas is a prolific composer, arranger and multi-instrumentalist for numerous Filipino pop artists. Meong Pacana is one of the strongest bass players in the country, and a member of the Ugoy-Ugoy Band. Mar Dizon is considered a jazz drum guru.

Admission is free. Call 527-3138 or 527-2961.

Philippine Literary Arts Council to host international meeting on poetry

THE PHILIPPINE Literary Arts Council (Plac) has received a substantial grant from the Japan Foundation Asia Center Grants Program to conduct an ambitious international conference-workshop this year.

A 20-year-old literary organization composed of prizewinning poets, Plac has drawn up plans for the Asia-Pacific Conference-Workshop on Indigenous and Contemporary Poetry to be held in various venues in Metro Manila from Aug. 20 to 25.

It involves the participation of poet-delegates from as many as 14 Asia-Pacific countries, namely, the host country, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico and the United States.

The international gathering of poets will seek to discover and disseminate the existing linkages between indigenous poetry, especially that of the oral tradition, and contemporary poetry as it is now practiced and published in Asia-Pacific countries.

Plac believes that contemporary poetic expression can be strengthened, and an appreciation of it can be enhanced with the identification of root sources in the distant past.

"Given their histories and shared visions, the countries of the Asia-Pacific region lend themselves well to this rediscovery of roots and linkages," says Plac president Susan Lara.

Project director is Umpil chair and Plac trustee Alfred A. Yuson, while Plac trustee and UP Prof. Gemino H. Abad will serve as finance officer.

Plac will be assisted by Umpil (Writers Union of the Philippines) and Creative Writing Foundation Inc. (CWF). Commitments of support have been received from the Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing and Research Center of De La Salle University (BNSCWRC), the Ateneo Institute of Literary Arts and Practices (Ailap), the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies, Likhaan: UP Creative Writing Center, and the Office of the Chancellor, UP Mindanao.

Among the participating foreign institutions are the Centre for Cross-Cultural Studies of Singapore Management University and the NSW (New South Wales) Writers' Centre in Sydney, Australia.

Meritage Press of San Francisco, California, USA will publish the conference papers as an anthology for international academic use. For its part, Manila-based Anvil Publishing Inc. will fund conference-based publications to address the needs of high school and college students in the Philippines, while Adarna House intends to transform the results of the conference-workshop into bilingual editions of children's books.

'Bulawan' out

THE FOURTH issue of "Bulawan: Journal of Philippine Arts and Culture" is now available. "Bulawan" is a refereed journal on academic papers, essays, reviews, and interviews on Philippine arts and culture. It is a quarterly publication of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Renowned critic and poet Prof. Virgilio S. Almario is editor-in-chief.

"Bulawan 4" contains articles by some of the country's best critics and scholars. The roster of contributors includes Gemino H. Abad, Florentino H. Hornedo, Virgilio S. Almario, Michael M. Coroza, and Roberto T. Anonuevo. "Bulawan 4" contains translations of the Kapampangan poetry of former President Diosdado Macapagal and the Filipino poetry of Mike Bigornia. It also contains what is probably the last interview with the late National Artist for Music Maestro Lucio San Pedro, who passed away last March.

Call 527-5529 or 527-2191 local 614.

bulawan
4
IN MEMORIAM

DBP holds Nat'l Day concert

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines (DBP) will hold its traditional Independence Day Concert tomorrow, 5 p.m., at the Bulwagan ng Diwang Pilipino, DBP head office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City.

This year's three-segment musical production titled "Bayang Pilipinas" depicts the panorama of Philippine life in a climactic, well-choreographed musical presentation. It includes DBP-commissioned songs on values and virtues such as "Palabra de Honor," "Ngayon ang Bukas" and "Buhayin Natin ang Delicadeza."

The concert features DBP's Ambassador of Goodwill, or the DBP Choral Ensemble, under Raul Navarro. Also featured is the DBP Dance Troupe under artistic director Jojo Lucila. Special guest performer is balladeer Marco Sison.

The concert is open to the public for free.

Bollywood can be as authentic as any art film

By Constantino C. Tejero

INDIA, with its nearly 900 million people of 16 languages and some 1,600 dialects, produces over 900 feature films a year. According to the 2001 edition of The Film Encyclopedia, these are exhibited domestically in about 13,000 theaters, or exported to countries where there are large Indian communities.

Though the Philippines has a large Indian community, Filipinos are not familiar with films from the subcontinent. Even the masterpieces of Satyajit Ray, the only Indian filmmaker at par with the true masters of world cinema, are seldom seen in this country.

Those who go the usual filmfest circuit may be familiar only with Shekhar Kapur ("Bandit Queen," "Elizabeth") and Deepa Mehta ("Earth," "Fire"), or Mira Nair ("Mississippi Masala," "Kamasutra"). Which means, they haven't even seen the mainstream.

An event that should rectify these omissions and lapses is the filmfest "Bollywood & Beyond: 'Treasures of Indian Cinema," presented by the Embassy of India in Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, June 5-9, and at the UP Film Center in Diliman, June 10-14.

Screened are 14 films that represent the two categories of Indian cinema: the commercial mainstream (Hindi, with the industry center in Bombay and Madras) and the regional film (Bengali, Tamil, Malyalam, with the center in Calcutta).

Ray is represented by his final film, "Agantuk" (The Stranger), a seriocomic meditation on family and death. Also shown are classics by Mrinal Sen, Raj Kapoor, Nair, and six musical extravaganzas from legendary 1950s director Guru Dutt.

The filmfest at the CCP opened with Nair's moving depiction of street children, "Salaam Bombay," Oscar nominee for Best Foreign-Language Film and winner of the Camera d'Or and the Prix de Publique at the 1987 Cannes. It closed with Dutt's best-known film "Pyaasa" (Eternal Thirst), one of Indian cinema's most famous melodramas.

Different sensibilities

Says the Oxford History of World Cinema: "To a great extent, the Indian cinema megalith since 1960 has been effectively categorized in popular discourse as two things: the 'Hindi movie,' and 'Satyajit Ray'—the former being the song-dance-action archetype made in over 12 languages and representing that most enviable of all national possessions, a cultural mainstream, and the latter, a highly generalized category involving a variety of different directors generically celebrated as being culturally 'rooted' in their context."

"SALAAM Bombay," by Mira Nair

Bollywood (combination of Bombay and Hollywood) is the mainstream of Indian cinema. Its typical movie is characterized by lavish production design, song-and-dance numbers, over-the-top melodrama.

"Everything is an excuse to break into a dance," says an entranced film journalist. "The heroine starts swatting at a bee; pretty soon she's twirling around with her veil. When the hero tries to slide a bangle onto her wrist, they start an elaborate, flirtatious dance."

She is referring to the recent Bollywood fare "Devdas," but she may as well be talking about Gutt's 1952 movie "Jaal" (The Net), shown at the CCP to a charmed audience. This one typifies Indian cinema's appropriation of Hollywood style and technique.

"MOTHER of 1084," by Govind Nihlani

Films like Adoor Gopalakrishnan's "Anantaram" (Monologue) and Sen's "Ek Din Anchanak" (Suddenly, One Day) may explore the same milieu and portray similar character types as those of "Jaal," but nothing can be more different than their sensibilities. Whereas the former drag us down into the whirlpool of reality, the latter flies us to the realm of fantasy.

Mishmash of images

In Gautam Ghose's "Paar" (The Crossing), for which Naseeruddin Shah won Best Actor at Venice in 1984, we thought nothing could top the performances in that climactic scene where, for 20 rupees, the untouchable man and his pregnant wife swim with 37 swine across two bends of the river while guiding them to land.

But when we saw the heroine in "Jaal" emote in the moonlight, on the beach, to her lover's strumming of guitar and soft entreaties, we were hurled right smack into the world of Carol Varga and Marlene Dauden.

Aside from the song-and-dance routine, there's even a Pugo-and-Tugo pair of cops here, some chase scenes, and a final shootout. The unreality of this world is underscored by the mishmash of images: a church, Western clothes, a guitar, a cross. And the characters have names such as Tony, Lisa, Simon, Carlos.

Okay, they're Christian. But the actors' faces aren't even Indian enough, and the landscape is too neutral to be India. (What's this? Is the director trying to make us believe we're in Mexico? Or that we're seeing something like "Esmeralda"?)

The beauty of the visuals is undeniable, though. A striking visual composition is the last shot, rendered in the extreme of dark and light, where the huddling group moves slowly against the stark vista of promontory and sky. Here Gutt approaches John Ford.

Recently, Bollywood has gained some respect, even admiration. We may now be seeing its acceptance in the international scene.

Baz Luhrmann borrowed heavily from it for "Moulin Rouge," which was in turn nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars early this year. A Bollywood fare, "Lagaan," was nominated for Best Foreign-Language Film.

Last month, "Devdas" became the first Hindi commercial film to be selected for screening at Cannes. That filmfest also paid tribute to Raj Kapoor, the Prince of Bollywood.

In his philosophical valedictory "Agantuk," Ray has incorporated some Bollywood habits. With that, he is recognizing the fact that this despised genre can speak of the sentiments and sensibilities of the Indian people as well as any art-house film can. And that should be the finest tribute of all.

Successful German filmfest at Shangri-La Plaza

GERMAN films are gaining popularity among filmfest buffs at Shangri-La Plaza Mall. This was reaffirmed during the recently concluded 3rd German Filmweek, which drew a sizeable crowd during its five-day run of seven critically acclaimed German films at the mall's Cinema 2.

The festival opened with the invitational screening of "Secret Society," a German-produced film shot in England. Hosted by the Goethe Institut, British Council and Shangri-La Plaza Mall, the affair was graced by film luminaries, cineastes as well as members of the diplomatic community. No less than the film's director, UK-based German director Imogen Kimmel, graced the occasion. She was accompanied by noted German filmmaker, author and critic Christa Maerker, who has been responsible for choosing the films to be featured in the yearly German film celebration.

Seen at the opening were German Embassy counselor Roland Grafe, Alliance Française de Manille director Philippe Normand, Goethe Institut director Wilfred Scheffler, award-winning directors Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, Marilou Diaz-Abaya and Joey Romero, German choreographer and director Scmidt Reitwein, Gill Westaway, Ina and Alan Cosio, Hamilton and Sarah Mcleod of Tajaro Production Inc., Lito Pagayo of Admix, actor John Arcilla and sisters Maui and Maricel, Paul Dumol of the University of Asia & the Pacific, Instituto Cervantes director Javier Galvan, twosome Teddy Co and Alexandra Breug, expats Dorothy Resester, Brigitte and William Austermann, UP Film Center's Virginia Moreno and Lali Lacaba, and amiable ladies Astra Boelter, Ramos Dehn and Muellar Rockstroh.

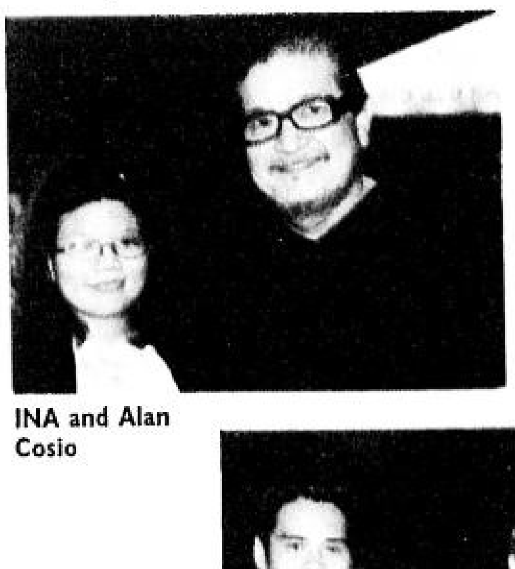
After a sumptuous buffet treat of Asian and Continental delights, all were ushered in to the cinema for the screening of Kimmel's award-winning "Secret Society," a good-humored and endearing film about being fat, love, sumo wrestling, UFOs and the dream that everybody will get his chance. Everyone loved it.

The festival continued the following days. Among the favorites were Academy Award winning director Xavier Koller's "Gripsholm," where viewers were transported to the pleasure-craving, decadent world of Berlin cabaret of the 1930s; Hans Christian Schmid's "Crazy," a story about good friends and first-time sex, longing, dreams and loneliness of young people facing the challenges of adulthood; and Christian Petzold's "The State I Am In" that tells how Clara (born in hiding and is now 15 years old) tries to lead an almost normal life that clashes with all necessity for secrecy as her parents Jeanne and Hans live underground.

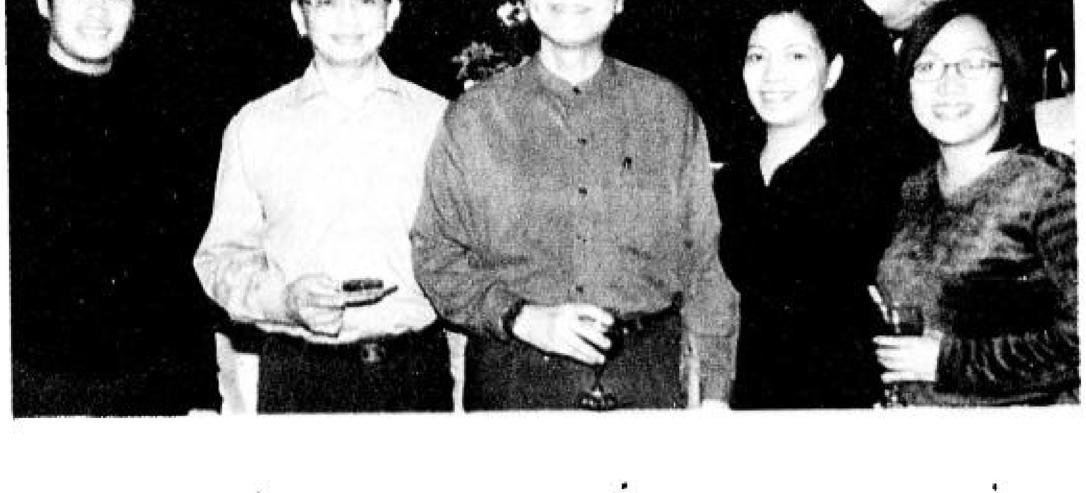
The French Film Festival is ongoing at the Shang Mall.

CHRISTA Maerker, Wilfred Scheffler and Virginia Moreno

CHRISTA Maerker, Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Imogen Kimmel and Gill Westaway


INA and Alan Cosio

JOEY Romero, Wilfred Scheffler and Carlitos Siguion-Reyna


JOHN Arcilla, Paul Dumol, Lito Pagayo, Guia Tieng and Saki Ramos

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"POSTMEN in the Mountains": A pastorale

THE ROAD HOME
ZHANG Yimou tackles romance in "The Road Home"

A lauriat of Chinese movies

SELECT Chinese films will be screened June 13-16 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The event coincides with the celebration of the Philippines-China Friendship Day.

The featured movies are Zhang Yimou's "Not One Less" and "The Road Home," Huo Jianqi's "The Postmen in the Mountains," Chang Quangxi's "Lotus Lantern," Zhang Yang's "Shower" and Feng Xiaoning's "The Legend of the Yellow River."

"Not One Less" (June 13, 7:30 p.m., invitational; and June 14, 4 p.m., CCP Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino) talks about a teacher's frantic search for a student who left school. With the help of a TV station and support from kind-hearted people, she finds and brings back the student to school. "The Road Home" (June 14, 7 p.m., CCP Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino), tells the simple but touching love story of Zhao Di, a young and beautiful girl who falls in love with a pristine but humorous young teacher.

Integrating the beautiful landscape with simple feelings, "The Postmen in the Mountains" (June 16; 4 p.m., CCP Tanghalang Manuel Conde) shows the profound sentiments between the country postman and the villagers.

"Lotus Lantern" (June 15, 4 p.m., Manuel Conde) is an animated film adapted from an ancient Chinese legend about a heavenly goddess, San Sheng Mu, and the adventures of her son, Chenxiang, with the help of a magic lotus lantern.

"Shower" (June 15, 7 p.m., Manuel Conde) is about the dramatic homecoming of a city dweller to his hometown.

"The Legend of the Yellow River" (June 16, 7 p.m., CCP Manuel Conde) is about a woman surgeon and Chinese army soldiers who rescue an American pilot, and how their sacrifices touch the life of the latter.

Admission is free.

宝莲灯
LOTUS LANTERN
ANIMATED fare recreates ancient Chinese legend.

张艺谋
NOT ONE LESS
A TEACHER'S story: "Not One Less"

EDUARD and Sevrine Mialhe, Connie and Oscar Lopez

ALAN Cosio, Czech Ambassador Stanislav Slavicky, Odette Alcantara and Nestor Matà

ANTON Juan, French Ambassador Veyret, Hanjo de Kuiper, Netherlands deputy chief of mission, Glenn Gale of Today

French Spring is here

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

THE FRENCH Spring is here and Cattier champagne flowed in the ballroom of the Mandarin like the Seine. Given the recent paucity of cultural offerings, the French festival was widely anticipated. Newly arrived French Ambassador **Renee Veyret** graciously greeted guests on the opening night of the piano concert of **Marie Josephe Jude** and **Emmanuel Strosser**. The duo played Ducas, Debussy, Chabrier and Brahams *con brio*. **Martin Makalintal**, French Embassy PRO who grew up in Paris and speaks French well, like a pro, gave a rousing introduction. The French Embassy, in cooperation with the Alliance Francaise de Manille and the Association Francaise d' Action Artistique, introduced the fourth season of the French festival, which is supported by BNP Paribas and Mandarin Oriental. In attendance were Belgian Ambassador **Arnold Van Remoortele**, Israeli Ambassador **Irit Ben Abba**, Cambodian Ambassador **Ek Sereywath**, Russian Ambassador **Anatoli Khmelnitski**, Mexican Ambassador **Enrique Hubbard** and his wife **Mariana**, and Italian Ambassador **Umberto Colesanti**.

Among the Philippine officials present were Central Bank Gov. **Rafael Buenaventura,** with wife **Marivic,** and Makati Rep. **Teddy Locsin** with wife **Louie,** who chatted with **Paz Yuchengco**; culture buffs **Odette Alcantara** and **Tatang Nestor Mata**, **Ivie** and **Alan Cosio**, **Virgie Moreno**, **Tessie** and **Arturo Luz**, **Baby Orosa**, **Tony** and **Mita Rufino,** and **Antoni Juan**. The last was excited about his multidisciplinary theater production, "Gargoyle's Whispers and Dance," staged at the Cultural Center on June 4. It was inspired by the life and works of Victor Hugo in celebration of his bicentennial birth.

Also at the glittering evening were **Oscar Lopez**, **Neddie Tantoco**, **DJ Lopez**, **Beth Day Romulo**, **Czar Pitoy**, **Ces and Rock Drilon**, **Johnny Litton**, and long-lost **Oscar Zalameda**, who has happily surfaced.

* * *

Mandarin Oriental's getting to be the place to celebrate National Days, with Norway holding their festivities at the grand ballroom of the hotel led by Ambassador **Paul Moe.** Foreign Affairs assistant secretary for European Affairs **Lourdes Morales** delivered the response to Ambassador Moe's address. Among the diplomatic envoys were Mexican Ambassador **Enrique Hubbard** and wife **Mariana**, Belgian Ambassador and Mme. **Arnold Van Remoortele**, Russian Ambassador **Anatoli Khmelnitski** and wife **Valentina**, Cambodian Ambassador and Mme. **Ek Sereywath**, Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Pantoja**, former Spanish Ambassador to the Philippines **Delfin Colome** and the elegant **Elena**, Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Ramirez**, Thai Ambassador **Busba Bunnag** and Consul **Evie Costa** of the Embassy of Togo.

Norwegian guest chef **Stein Erik Alvasted,** who was in Manila together with sponsor Snorre Foods director **Franck Naesheim**, made sure everyone had their taste of Norwegian specialities.

* * *

Say-it-isn't-so department. Will she or won't she accept Emilio Yap's offer to cater for free for her son's wedding? Rumors are the garden beside the champagne room and the swimming pool area will be demolished to make way for another shabby building. Did anyone say patrimony or was it the Supreme Court's idea of a joke?

GIGI Montinola, Marivic and Paeng Buenaventura

CAMBODIAN Ambassador and Mme. EK Sereywath

ITALIAN Ambassador Humberto Colisante, Tessie Luz and Beth Day Romulo

AMBASSADOR to Malta Enrique and Letty Syquia, Chilean Ambassador Carmen Lynam

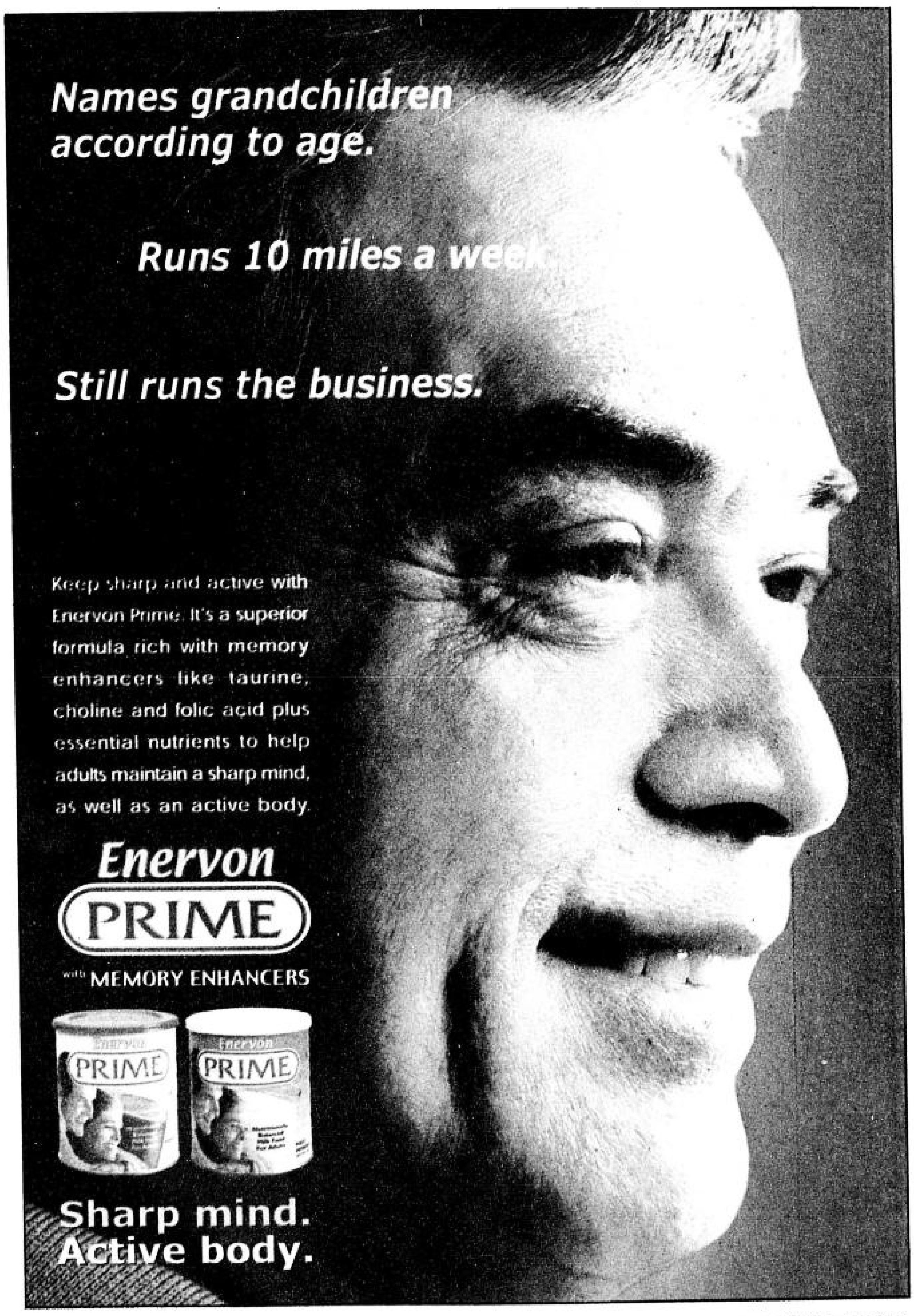
BABY Orosa and Mita Rufino

BELGIAN Ambassador Roland Remoortelle and French Ambassador Renee Veyret

LUISA Perez Rubio, Ambassador Peter Rosting, Isabel Wilson, lawyer Ricardo Romulo, Birgitta Rosting, Roberto Romulo and Billy Luz

BETH Day Romulo and Josie Trinidad Lichauco

NORWEGIAN Ambassador Peter Moe and Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco



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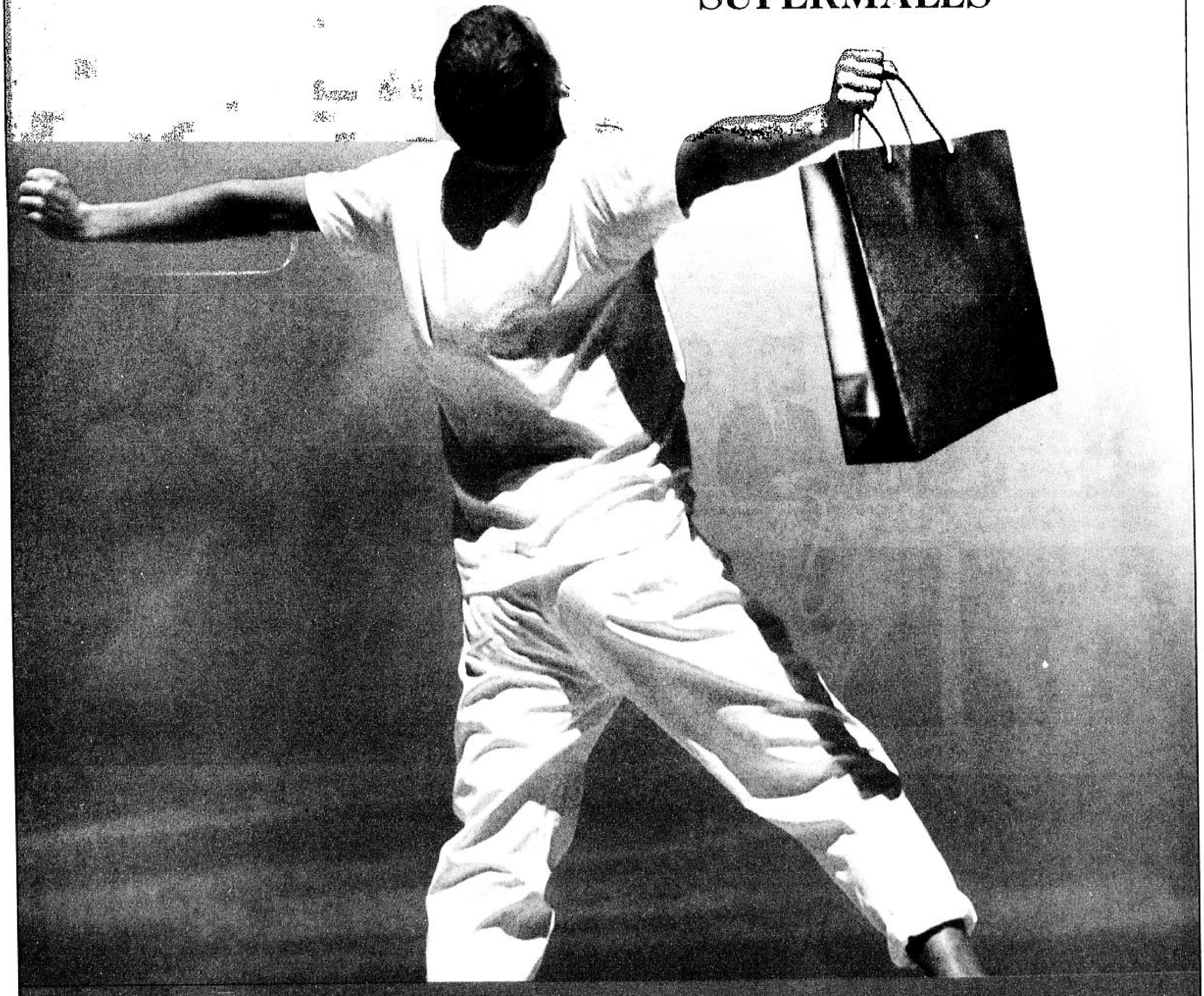

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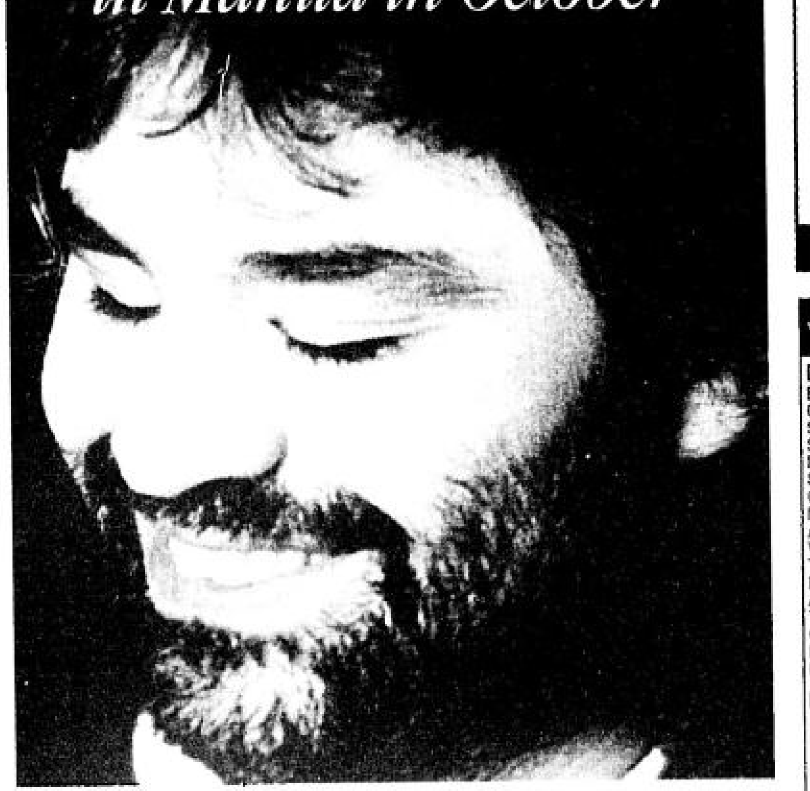
Andrea Bocelli to perform in Manila in October



By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THE CELEBRATED blind tenor Andrea Bocelli is coming to Manila in September, according to Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas. For his performance, a 75-member orchestra to be led by a foreign conductor of his choice will accompany him.

"The INQUIRER story on Bocelli's coming to Manila received a lot of positive reactions from foreigners," said Arenas, who left for Rome during the weekend to attend the canonization of Padre Pio. She said she was deluged with calls from abroad; she added people from the region would come to Manila just to hear Bocelli sing.

"Great artists [coming here] can greatly improve the tourism climate in the country," said Arenas, who brought Pavarotti to Manila in 1994. Her mother, the famous Filipino soprano Remedios Bosch Jimenez, studied under Pavarotti's teacher, Arrigo Pola.

The other big music news is the return engagement of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra in October with Asian pianist Lang Lang as soloist in Rachmaninoff 2, courtesy of Citibank.

Rodel Colmenar gets the jitters
p.E3

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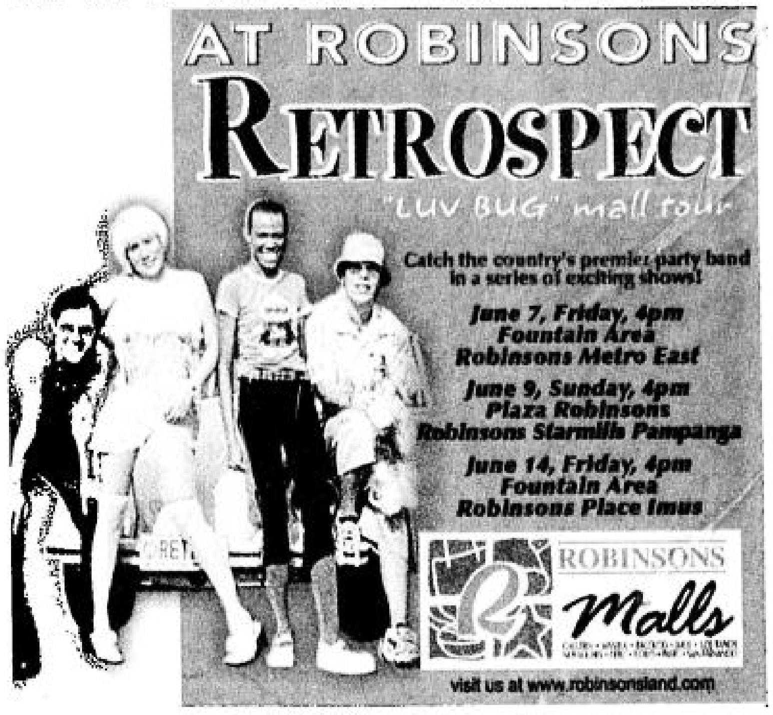

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All Wrapped Up June 25, Tuesday, 1:30-5:00 pm Whole Fish Baked In Salt, Roast Chicken Wrapped In Bread Version 2, Empanadang Antigo, Mini Phyllo Purses with Dipping Sauce, Simplified Machang Version 2 Tuition Fee - P1,000
Back To Baking Basics 2 June 27, Thursday, 1:30-5:00 pm Marble Chiffon Cake with Chocolate Buttercream, Apple Walnut Muffins, Monster Cookies, I Love New York Baked Cheesecake, Mocha Roll with Coffee Crunch Tuition Fee - P850
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Cut-Up Theme Cakes June 17 and 18, Monday and Tuesday, 10 am to 5 pm A fun course on how to create exciting cake figures using cakes baked in basic round, square and rectangular baking pans, cut-up to form shapes such as the bunny, the bear, sailboat, butterfly, etc. and frosted with buttercream to complete the figure. The course includes baking your own cake and cupcakes to complement the main cake. Limited to 10 students. Tuition Fee - P2,200
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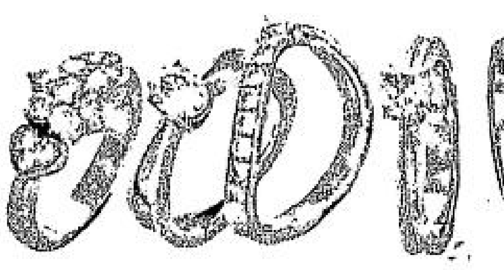

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Repertory Philippines marks 35th year

REPERTORY Philippines (Rep) celebrates its 35th year and 65th season this June. Friends and supporters from the theater, business and media will be treated to a lunch celebration at the Vincent's Bar & Restaurant located at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall Car Park today. Popular theater personalities Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Michael Williams, Rem Zamora, Liesl Batucan, Elver Esquivel, and Amparo Sietereales, will perform song numbers from past Rep musical productions.

Rep was founded in June 1967 by a handful of theater enthusiasts interested in developing a community theater in Manila. The group was headed by well-known theater stalwart Zeneida Amador, who remains Rep's president and artistic director. The theater company aimed to develop a theater industry in the Philippines that would provide employment for the talents and skills of Filipinos who wished to work in the theater, provide legitimate theater entertainment, and, through its audience development program, develop an appreciation of legitimate theater as entertainment for individual growth, community development and national stability.

After 35 years, Rep has produced more than 300 plays; it is the only company that has productions running every weekend of the year except for June. Its productions include "Les Miserables," "The King and I," "Passion," "Evita," "My Fair Lady," "La Cage Aux Folles," "South Pacific," "Jesus Christ Superstar," and a host of Broadway and West End musicals. Shakespeare and other classics, comedies and dramas are also mounted.

Presently, Rep is producing eight full-length plays, one full-scale musical, and one children's play with a total of 270 performances a year. It welcomes an average of 10,000 persons a month to its performances.

For its 65th season, Rep has prepared four excellent, critically acclaimed plays. Jeff Baron's heart-warming comedy, "Visiting Mr. Green," opens the season on June 20, to be followed by the Pulitzer prize-winning "Dinner with Friends" by Donald Margulies on July 25. A comedy classic by William Shakespeare, "Much Ado about Nothing," comes next on August 29. Jay Allen's romantic comedy "Forty Carats" closes the season on Oct. 3. Rep's Children's Theater production of the musical, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," runs at the William J. Shaw Theater, Shangri-La Plaza from July 20 until Dec. 15. "A Christmas Carol" ("Scrooge-The Musical") by Leslie Bricusse is Rep's off-season musical and will run from Nov. 14 until Dec. 15.

All plays are available for fund-raising and school or social activities. Discounts can be arranged. A season's ticket entitles the holder to watch all four plays of the season for only P750. Special edition tickets are available for only P450. Call 633-4822 to -25 or e-mail rep@broline.com. Also visit www.repertory philippines.com.

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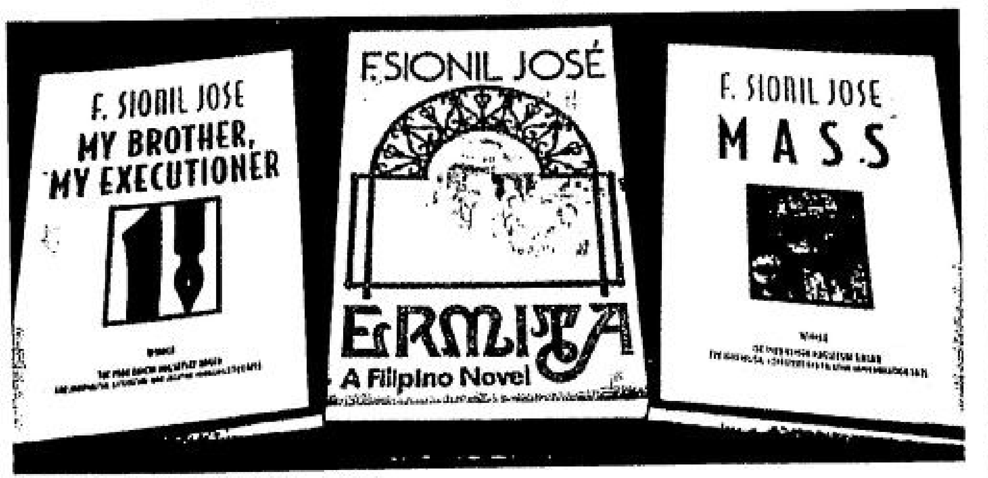
MENCHU Lauchengco-Yulo: A veteran of several productions

REM Zamora: New actor will figure in new season

AMPARO Sietereales to perform memorable songs from Rep hits



FOCUS ON F. SIONIL JOSE

NATIONAL Artist for Literature F. Sionil Jose is Powerbooks' Author of the Month for June. Born in 1924 in Pangasinan, and educated at the University of Santo Tomas, Jose has been called by the New York Times Review of Books as the "foremost Filipno novelist in English." Meanwhile, the Powerbooks Book of the Month is "Manila, My Manila" by National Artist Nick Joaquin. Call 844-4455 or visit www.powerbooks.com.ph.

Father's Day gift picks

POWERBOOKS Specialty Store provides several gift choices for Father's Day.

"Thoughts to Share with a Wonderful Father," "To a Very Special Dad" and "For My Father" are gift-book collections of poems, writings and images that pay tribute to all fathers.

For stressed-out father, "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Men" and "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff at Work" by Richard Carson are the perfect gifts.

For business-minded fathers, leadership expert John Maxwell's best-seller, "The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork," shares vital principles and secrets necessary for success in business and personal life.

"Manila, My Manila" is the book for history buffs.

For armchair traveler dads, "South East Asia: A Passage Through Time" is a beautifully photographed coffee-table book.

And for fathers who can't resist cars, there's "BMW," a history of one of the top luxury carmakers in the world.

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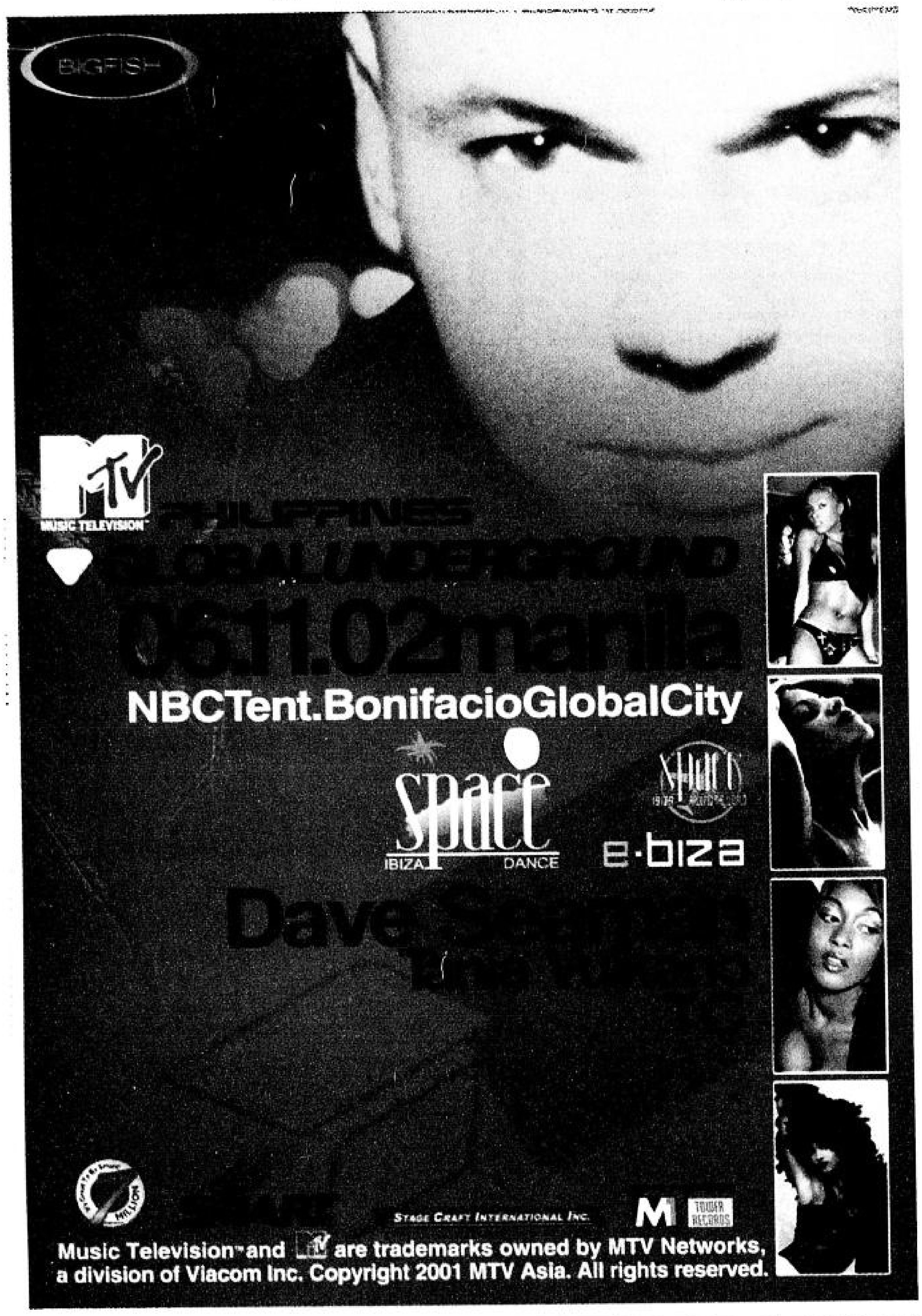
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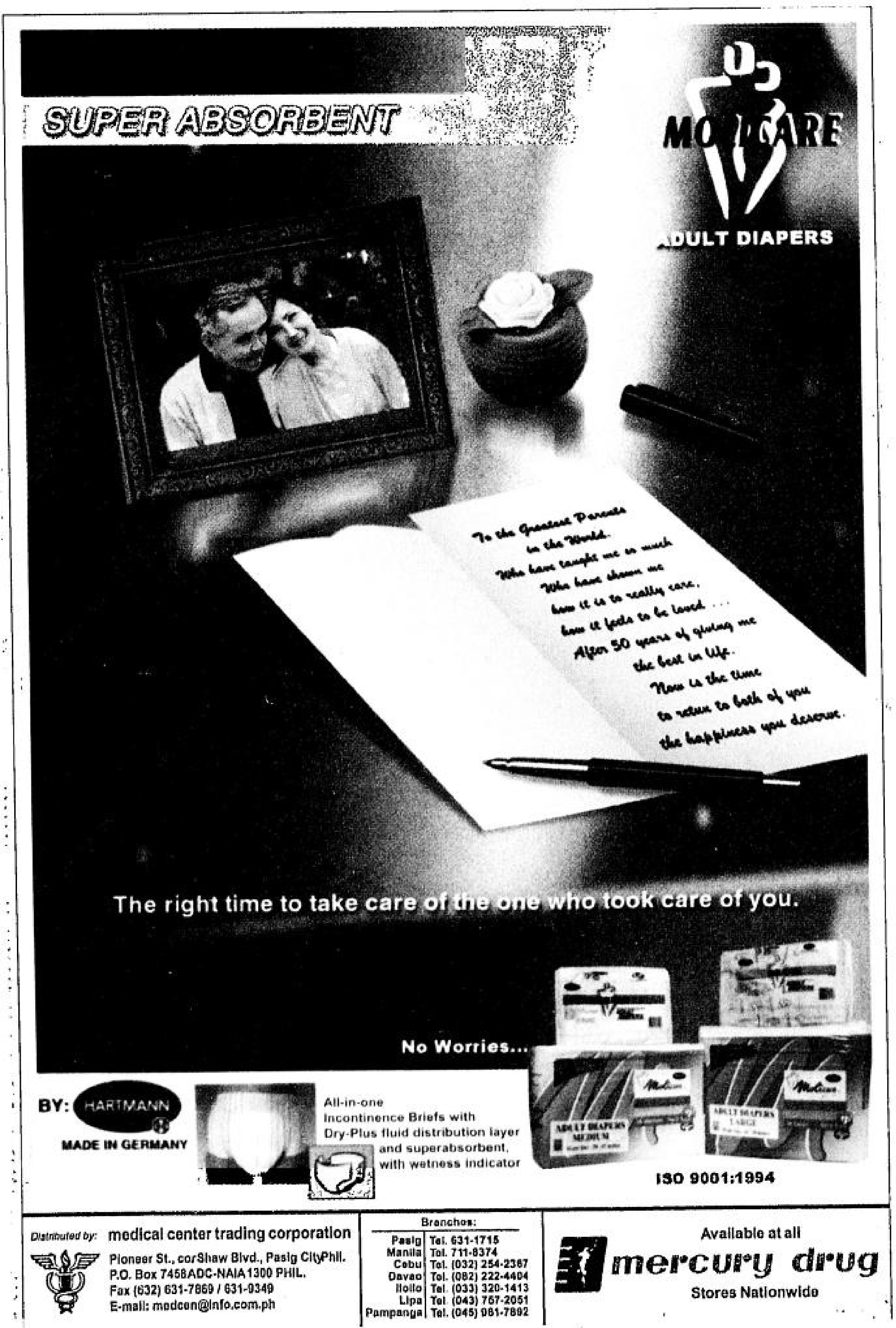
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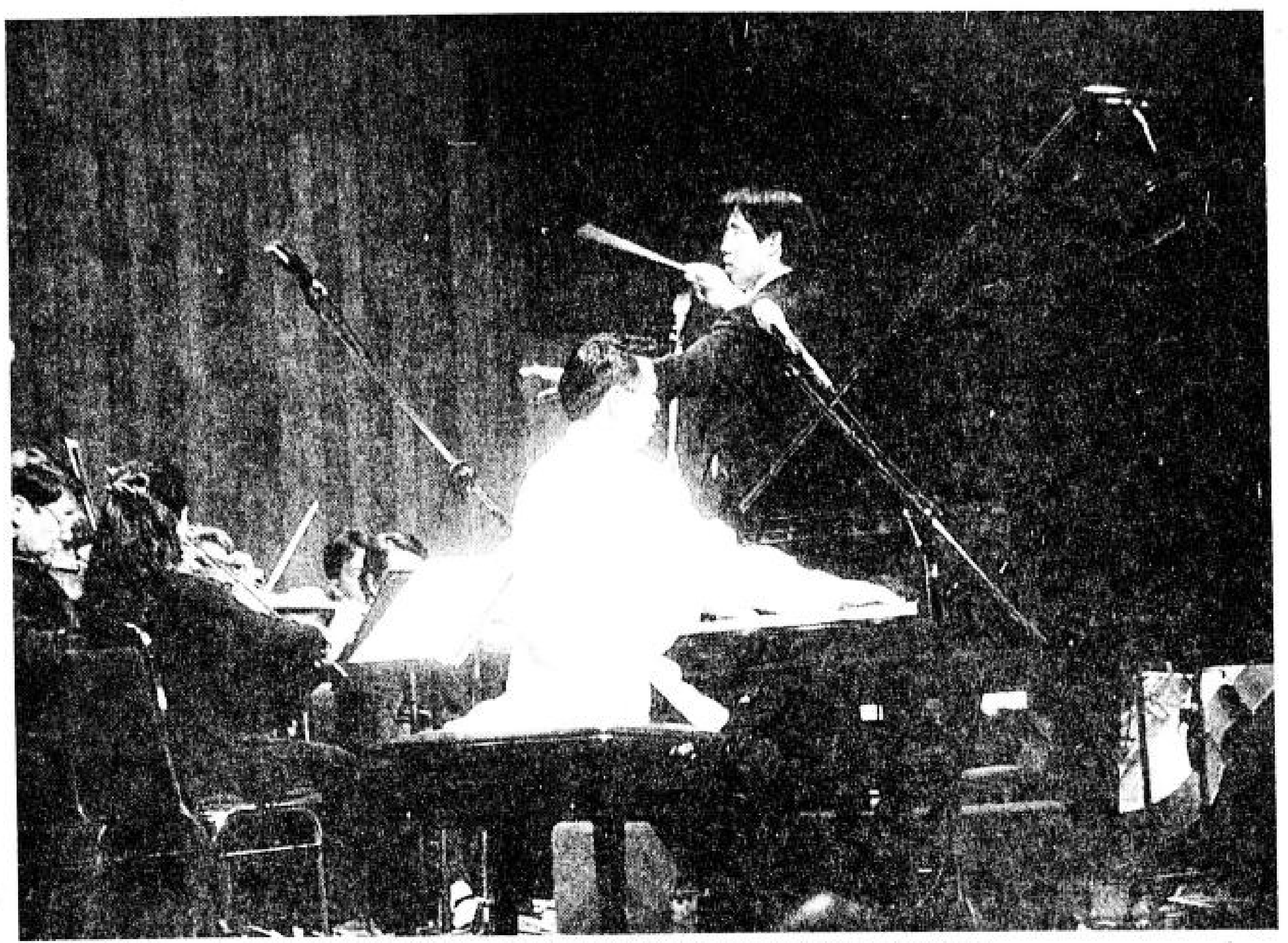
The wind player as orchestra conductor

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor



COLMENAR conducts Rachmaninoff No. 2 with Berlin-based pianist Abelardo Galang.

LAST week, as Cecile Licad was preparing for another homecoming concert in Manila on June 17 with the San Miguel Philharmonic, she received another standing ovation as soloist in the E Minor Concerto of Chopin played by the Vancouver Symphony.

Licad had just played in Vancouver a little more than a year ago with the Chopin F Minor Concerto. This time she returned to the same orchestra and rounded up the two romantic concertos.

Next Monday at the CCP, it will be her turn to face the San Miguel Philharmonic with a new conductor, Rodel Colmenar, a former horn principal of the Philippine Philharmonic. Colmenar, in fact, will formally debut with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra (SMPO).

"This is a dream come true for me," Colmenar says.

In Manila, Licad has been conducted by a long line of seasoned musicians from National Artist Antonino Buenaventura (Haydn concerto) to Luis Valencia ("Brandenburgh," Ravel's Concerto in G), Oscar Yatco (Chopin No. 2 and Tchaikovsky's First) and Francisco Feliciano (Saint-säens No. 2).

The foreign conductors who have come to Manila to conduct Licad are equally formidable, from Charles Dutoit (Chopin No. 2 with the London Philharmonic) to Piero Gamba (Variations on a Theme by Paganini), Ruggero Barbieri (Tchaikovsky's First and Rach 2), the Norwegian Mats Liljefors with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra (Chopin No. 1), the Argentinian Delfin Calderon (Rachmaninoff's Third), and the Rumanian Sergiu Commissiona with the Asian Youth Orchestra (Variations on a Theme by Paganini).

Terrific pressure

Considering these personalities and orchestral ensembles, the pressure on Colmenar is terrific.

For one, Colmenar knows that Licad doesn't thrive on conventional tempo. She can go faster than the normal measure depending on the intensity of the moment.

In Licad's musical universe, there is a rhythm within a rhythm. Reading music doesn't mean you have to be literal about it. There is a reading tempo and a performance tempo. Everything should be at the disposal of the music and the composer.

Her goal is to make the music alive for this generation and not be content with conventional tempo that belongs to the museum.

The pianist once said of the influence of her teacher, Rudolf Serkin: "He taught me not to be afraid to take risks. He said, 'Do what you believe; your conviction will make the music alive.' I have always taken his advice."

The conductor has long imbibed Licad's musical instincts. "I've already prepared myself for that and hopefully with enough preparations, I should be able to lead the orchestra to perfectly complement her interpretation," Colmenar says.

Colmenar is not daunted because he will be working with a soloist who is also a consummate chamber musician. "The easy part of working with her is that she is a true disciple of chamber music and she's sensitive when it comes to tempo. I am sure she always takes into consideration the whole orchestra and not just play the piece. The most difficult part is that Ms Licad has played this concerto (Rach 3) a number of times while it's going to be the first time for me. I did Rach 2 thrice and Rach 3 with her (Licad) is my first baptism into this difficult concerto."

Not a neophyte

But Colmenar is not exactly a neophyte in the music scene.

After temporarily laying aside his French horn, he took to the baton and started cutting his teeth with local orchestras starting with the University of Santo Tomas Symphony Orchestra. He also tested the Asian waters. He guest-conducted the Kuala Lumpur Symphony Orchestra, the Twilite Orchestra of Indonesia, the Penang State Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra of Malaysia.

Then he got involved with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO), which saw him working with such soloists as Rumanian violinist Alexander Tomescu, Italian soprano Corinne Santilliagne, baritone Jonathan Zaens, soprano Andion Fernandez and pianist Peter John Porticos.

With Tomescu, Colmenar conducted Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5. In this performance, I noted that Tomescu had a special way of interacting with a new orchestra for the first time. Even with his enviable status as a soloist, the violinist molded the concerto with such high regard for the orchestra. He gently pointed the way, and a refreshing dialogue ensued.

The purity of Mozart's music found a perfect disciple in Tomescu wtih his unerring musicianship. Working with a world-class soloist, the orchestra under Colmenar found a perfect vehicle with which to re-establish its presence in the music world. With a youthful soloist and an equally youthful conductor, the Mozart concerto found thoroughly agreeable exponents.

That was the last time Colmenar worked with a European soloist brought in by the late conductor Redentor Romero.

Recalls Colmenar: "It was easy working with Tomescu. The thing is, he can easily adjust to any situation. I remember when I worked with him for the first time. I gave the orchestra the cue to play and it was a little bit late. He did not say anything but instead gave me a smile, and he immediately adjusted his tempo for us to catch up."

Worthy exposure

Another worthy exposure was working with singers. For Colmenar, it was a revelation working with Berlin-based Filipino artists like Zaens and Fernandez.

Reflects the young conductor: "Working with singers was also a challenge because, unlike the pianist or instrumental soloist, they do one in rehearsal and do another during the performance."

The change of orchestral assignment he sees as a turning point in his favor.

Most of the members of SMPO came from the ranks of the MPO, which he has conducted many times. "It is easy to collaborate in music if your musicians support you and trust your convictions," he says.

The June 17 concert opens with Shostakovich's Fifth Symphon. Here Colmenar knows the areas he should be sensitive with. To him, the main challenge lies in the interpretation and the balance.

"With the interpretation, it is hard to change what they (the veteran musicians) are used to, especially if they have played it before," he says. "Like, if they play a passage in a slow tempo and you want to do it moderately, like the introduction, there will always be resistance. You really have to convince them why you need to do it your own way. Shostakovich's Fifth is very popular, and people have heard it a lot of time with different orchestras. But with us in the SMPO, we did some minor changes in the interpretation but within the boundaries of how the composer intended it to be played."

Tribute

He pays tribute to his ideal conductors.

"I like (Herberet von) Karajan because I admire his way of leading and promoting the Berlin Philharmonic," he says. "The orchestra owes it to Karajan. He made it into a business empire. I also like his interpretations. It is just right, not too dramatic. I also like the gracefulness of Claudio Abado and his baton technique, the left-hand technique of my teacher Jean Sebastiane Bereau and the rehearsal discipline of Mendi Rodan."

On June 17, as he conducts the SMPO with Licad as soloist in the Third Rachmaninoff Concerto, Colmenar should be off to his familiar backstage ritual.

He always prays before a performance. "I always offer my concert to God," he says.

Then he concentrates and sings all the most difficult parts of the music.

He doesn't forget one thing. "A big must is talking to my musicians, because I need to remind them why we are doing this concert, and that all our efforts and hard work will be judged in this particular performance. I also give them some inspiring words. And we don't forget to pray together."

It will be a turning point for Rodel Colmenar when he conducts Rach 3 with Cecile Licad as formidable soloist

WITH his wand, Colmenar is undaunted by the prospect of playing with Licad.

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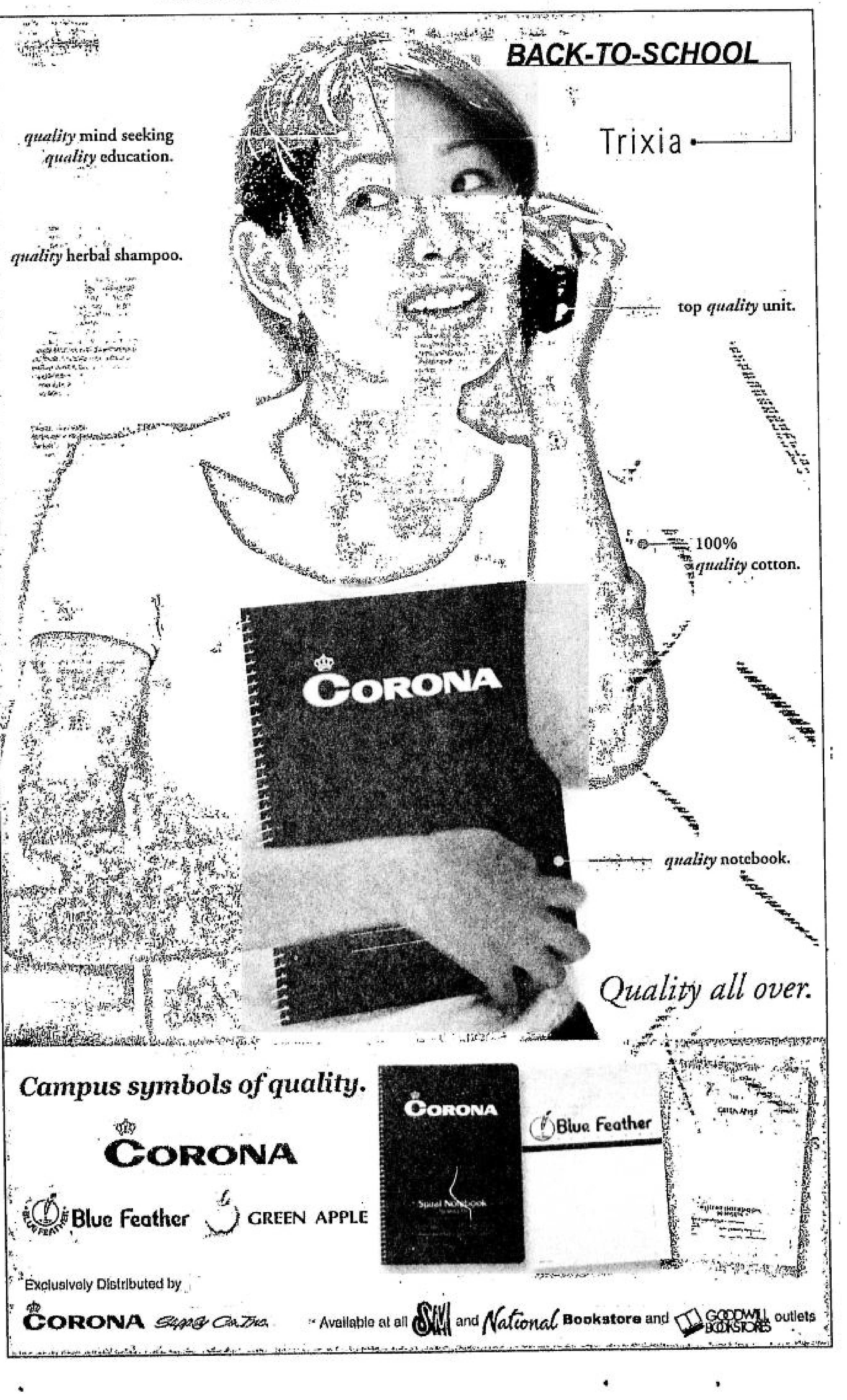
FOR FATHER'S Day, Shangri-La Plaza Mall is holding a series of musical performances starting June 14 with the Acoustic Duo and Da Capo. On June 15, the UP Jazz Friends will perform; on June 16, the singing group Noir (above); and on June 18, the UP Singing Ambassadors. The festival is part of the Shangri-La Plaza's "Joie de Vivre" program in consonance with the French Spring Festival, in which the best of contemporary French films is being shown at the mall's cinema. Call tel. 633-7851.



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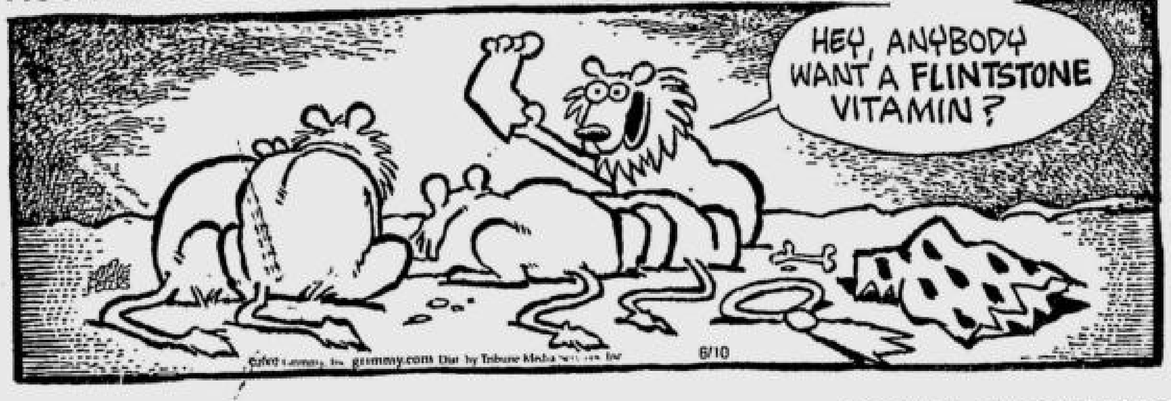
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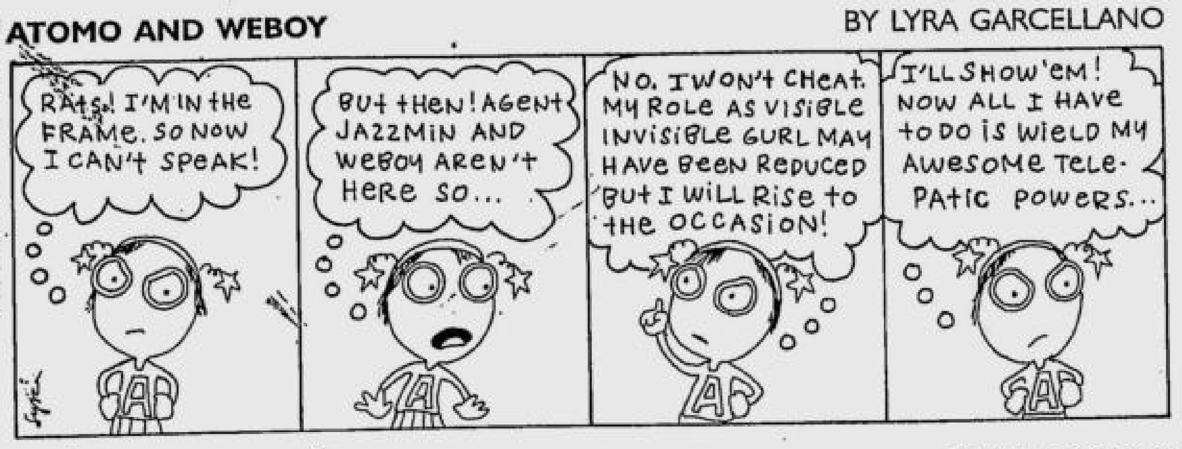
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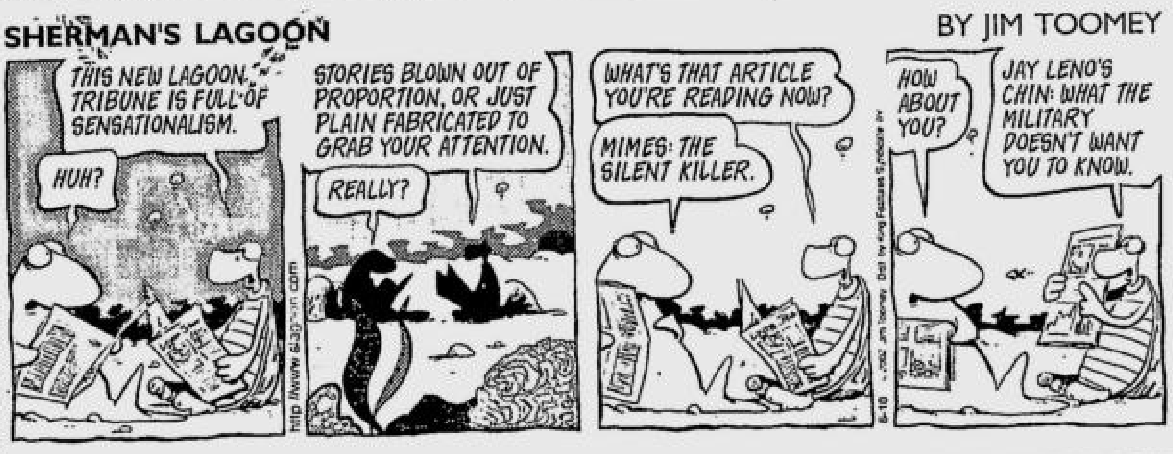
BUT THEN! AGENT JAZZMIN AND WEBOY AREN'T HERE SO...
NO. I WON'T CHEAT. MY ROLE AS VISIBLE INVISIBLE GURL MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BUT I WILL RISE TO THE OCCASION!
I'LL SHOW 'EM! NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WIELD MY AWESOME TELEPATIC POWERS...

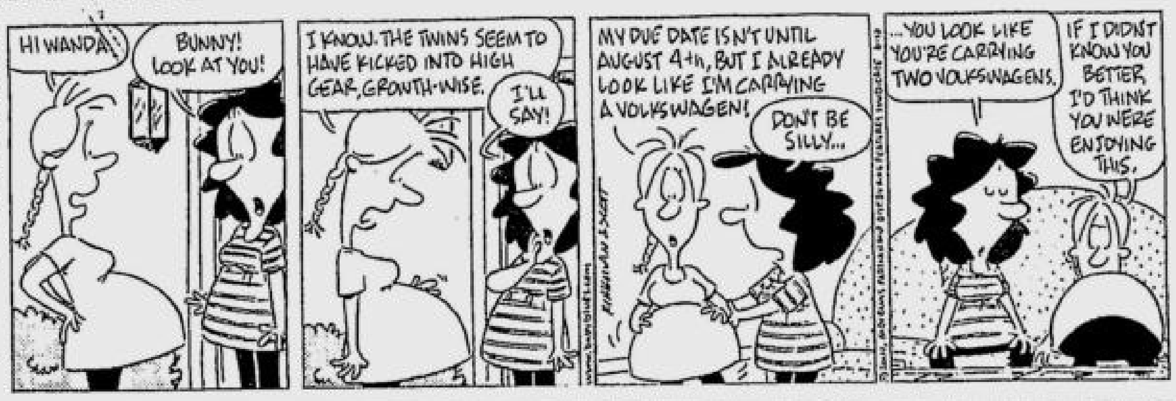
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THIS NEW LAGOON TRIBUNE IS FULL OF SENSATIONALISM.
HUH?
STORIES BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION, OR JUST PLAIN FABRICATED TO GRAB YOUR ATTENTION.
REALLY?
WHAT'S THAT ARTICLE YOU'RE READING NOW?
MIMES: THE SILENT KILLER.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
JAY LENO'S CHIN: WHAT THE MILITARY DOESN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW.
6-10

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI WANDA!
BUNNY! LOOK AT YOU!
I KNOW. THE TWINS SEEM TO HAVE KICKED INTO HIGH GEAR, GROWTH-WISE.
I'LL SAY!
MY DUE DATE ISN'T UNTIL AUGUST 4th, BUT I ALREADY LOOK LIKE I'M CARRYING A VOLKSWAGEN!
DON'T BE SILLY...
...YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE CARRYING TWO VOLKSWAGENS.
IF I DIDN'T KNOW YOU BETTER, I'D THINK YOU WERE ENJOYING THIS.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Prince Philip, Judy Garland, F. Lee Bailey, Elisabeth Shue

Happy Birthday: You can make financial gains through investments or inheritance this year. You'll be ambitious and active in your search for professional standing. You will have a greater interest in cultural trends and unusual studies. You will have a strong need to reform existing rules and regulations. Your numbers are 1, 15, 23, 25, 27, 32

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Social activity and getting together with friends will promote meeting new people and developing your ideas. Your quick wit will make you shine.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Nothing will stand in your way today when it comes to completing a task. You will have the determination to finish what you start so make the most of this progressive day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep busy and you will prosper. Your ideas will be fresh and will interest others. Go after your dreams and push to get what you want.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Focus on home and family and you will do just fine. You may want to keep some news secret for a little longer. You need to surround yourself with the colors and artifacts that soothe you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The more you get involved in worthwhile organizations the better you will feel about yourself. You can make new friends and enjoy new activities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may do something that will cause a problem at work if you aren't careful. Keep your thoughts and criticisms to yourself for now. Someone you thought you could trust will turn out to be a thorn in your side.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): This will be a great day to address your beliefs and talk to people who have different opinions. You will interest those you encounter if you share your thoughts and reasons.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be on to something good today if you follow through on an interesting proposition or investment. Check out any opportunities that come your way but don't take a chance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may want to talk seriously with a partner who has been taking up most of your time. Lay your cards on the table and determine if you want to continue this connection.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The more you do to stabilize your position the further you will go in the future. Helping a colleague will ensure that you have support in the future. Look out for your own interests.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your curiosity will lead you into all sorts of interesting scenarios. Talk will be the vehicle you use in order to discover new things. The more you learn today the farther ahead you'll be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will have to keep a low profile and let others do as they please today. Someone will be looking for an argument and if you give in you will find yourself in an awkward position.

Birthday Baby: You will be great with languages. You will love to read and study unusual subjects. You will be interested in the workings of electrical devices, airplanes, x-rays, radio waves. You will always have interesting but unexpected encounters

DAILY CROSSWORD

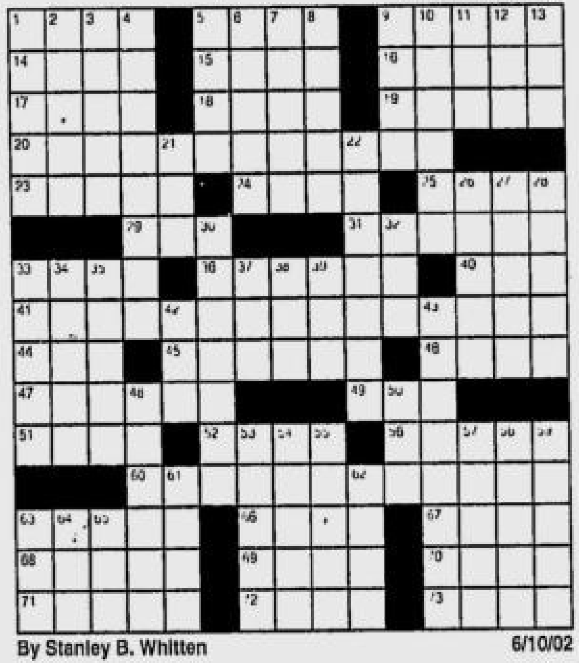
ACROSS

1 Thick piece
5 Border upon
9 In pieces
14 Pierre's noggin
15 Horne or Olin
16 Large mackerel
17 British nobleman
18 Stumble
19 Beginning
20 NL arena
23 Trap
24 Short-tailed wildcat
25 Inter __
29 Picnic pest
31 Outer cover
33 Learned monkey-style
36 Spring back
40 Bean counter: abbr.
41 NL arena
44 Last of a cigar
45 Disquiet
46 Blues singer James
47 Alarms
49 Yule mo.
51 Fork prong
52 Burden
56 Jargon
60 AL arena
63 __ sense (keen intuition)
66 Poker token
67 Time unit
68 Regional speech
69 Present!
70 Actress Thompson
71 Couples
72 Russian-born illustrator
73 Tears

DOWN

1 Slumgullion and goulash
2 Gain knowledge
3 Courtyards
4 Serbian capital
5 Der __ (Adenauer)
6 Mineral of emerald
7 Bring together
8 Gimme on the green
9 Oil-base GI
10 Zoo favorites
11 Sounds of delight
12 Caviar source
13 Small child
21 Dawson or Deighton
22 Stirred up
26 Permitted by law
27 Contribution
28 Old World lizard
30 Door top
32 Ga. neighbor
33 Sailor's call
34 "My Cousin Vinny" star
35 Hawke or Coen
37 Compass pt.
38 R.E. Lee's nation
39 CIA forerunner
42 Regret
43 Convert code
48 Church of England priest
50 Culbertson of bridge
53 Cranny
54 Theater guide
55 Woman's garment
57 Model Campbell
58 Cranky one
59 Gumbo ingredients
61 Units of resistance
62 Fencing sword
63 Nurse, as a drink
64 Actress Lupino
65 Nero's dozen

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

6/10/02

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

B	O	R	E	D	O	M	■	B	R	A	V	E	S	T
U	K	E	L	E	L	E	■	R	U	N	O	V	E	R
R	I	F	F	L	E	R	■	E	N	T	W	I	N	E
G	N	U	■	L	A	R	I	A	T	S	■	D	O	M
H	A	S	P	■	N	I	C	K	S	■	V	E	R	B
E	W	E	R	■	D	E	E	S	■	B	A	N	A	L
R	A	R	E	N	E	S	S	■	C	U	R	T	S	Y
■	■	■	E	A	R	T	H	W	O	R	M	■	■	■
C	R	I	M	P	S	■	E	A	R	N	I	N	G	S
H	E	M	P	S	■	P	E	S	T	■	N	E	R	O
O	M	I	T	■	P	A	T	T	I	■	T	O	O	L
R	O	T	■	T	E	R	S	E	S	T	■	N	O	V
A	V	A	R	I	C	E	■	F	O	R	G	A	V	E
L	A	T	E	R	A	N	■	U	N	E	A	T	E	N
E	L	E	M	E	N	T	■	L	E	F	T	E	S	T

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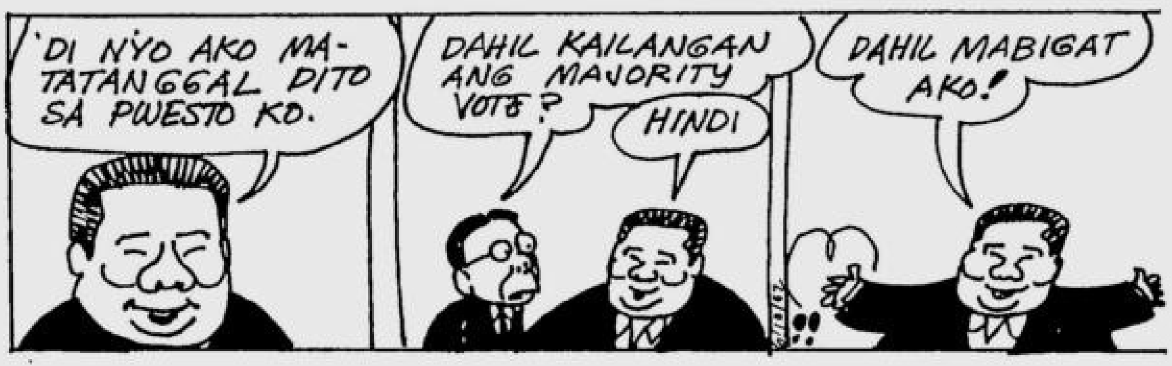
6/10/02

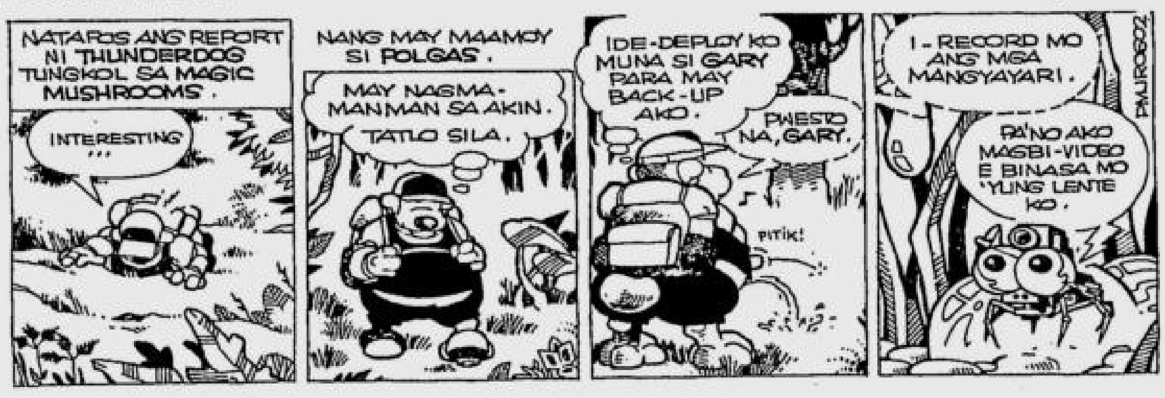
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'DI N'YO AKO MATATANGGAL DITO SA PWESTO KO.
DAHIL KAILANGAN ANG MAJORITY VOTE?
HINDI
DAHIL MABIGAT AKO!

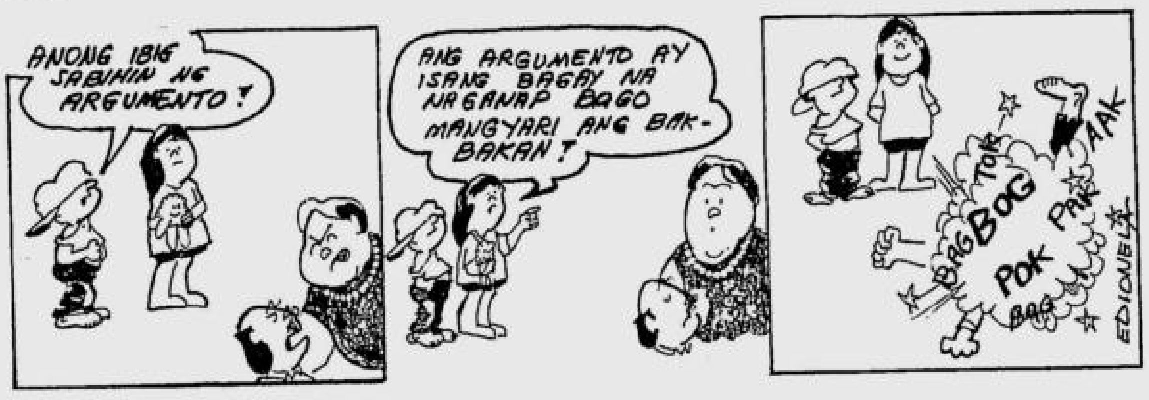
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NATAROS ANG REPORT NI THUNDERDOG TUNGKOL SA MAGIC MUSHROOMS.
INTERESTING...
NANG MAY MAAMOY SI POLGAS.
MAY NAGMAMANMAN SA AKIN.
TATLO SILA.
IDE-DEPLOY KO MUNA SI GARY PARA MAY BACK-UP AKO.
PWESTO NA, GARY.
PITIK!
I-RECORD MO ANG MGA MANGYAYARI.
PA'NO AKO MAGBI-VIDEO E BINASA MO 'YUNG LENTE KO.
PMJR0602

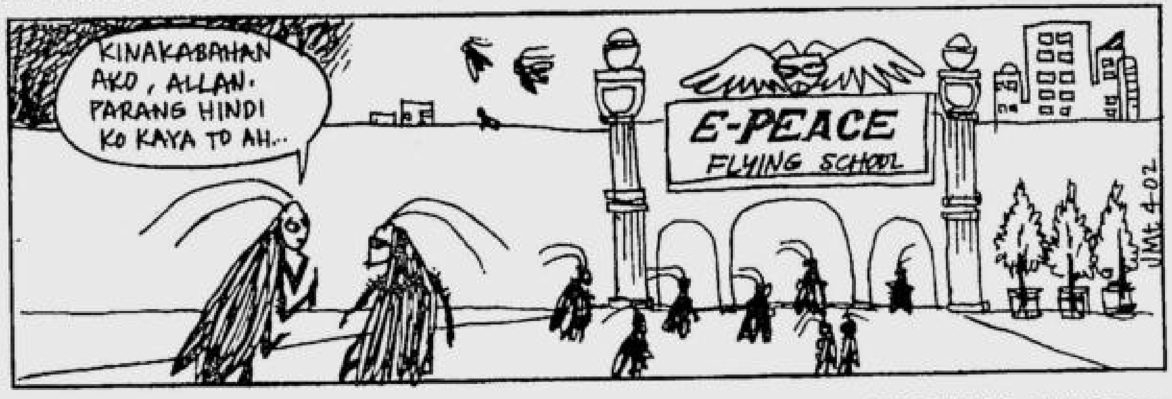
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANONG IBIG SABIHIN NG ARGUMENTO?
ANG ARGUMENTO AY ISANG BAGAY NA NAGANAP BAGO MANGYARI ANG BAKBAKAN?
TOK
BAG
BOG
PAK
AAK
POK
BAG

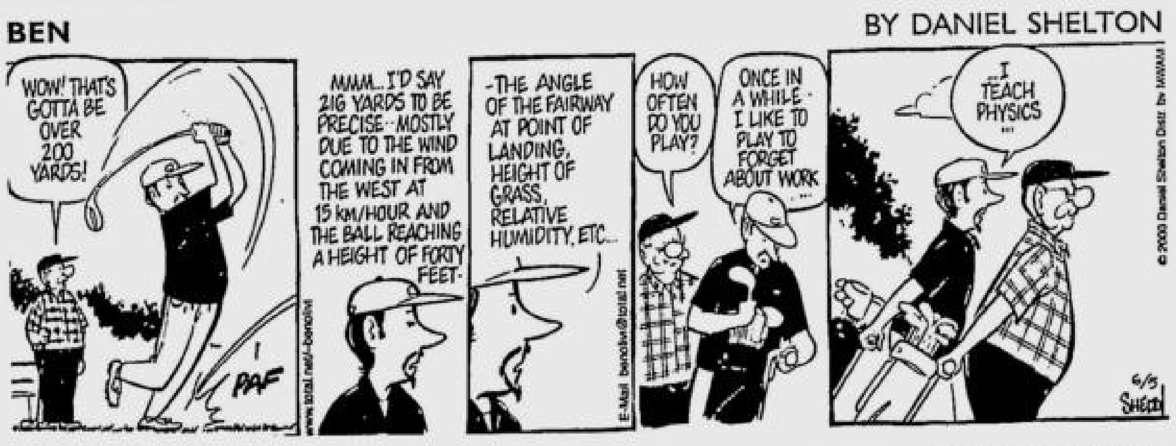
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KINAKABAHAN AKO, ALLAN. PARANG HINDI KO KAYA TO AH...
E-PEACE
FLYING SCHOOL
JMT 4-02

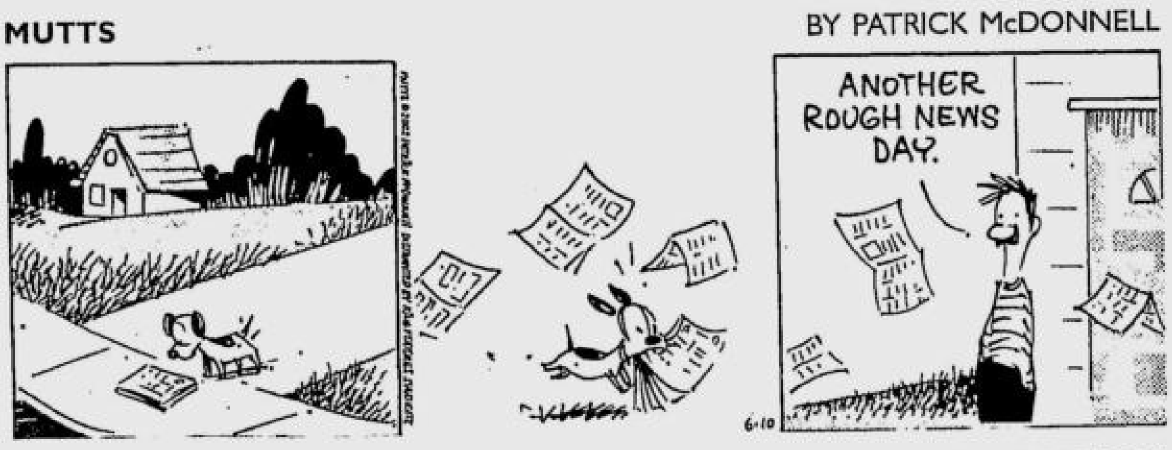
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WOW! THAT'S GOTTA BE OVER 200 YARDS!
PAF
MMM...I'D SAY 216 YARDS TO BE PRECISE--MOSTLY DUE TO THE WIND COMING IN FROM THE WEST AT 15 KM/HOUR AND THE BALL REACHING A HEIGHT OF FORTY FEET-
-THE ANGLE OF THE FAIRWAY AT POINT OF LANDING, HEIGHT OF GRASS, RELATIVE HUMIDITY, ETC...
HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAY?
ONCE IN A WHILE - I LIKE TO PLAY TO FORGET ABOUT WORK...
...I TEACH PHYSICS...
6/5

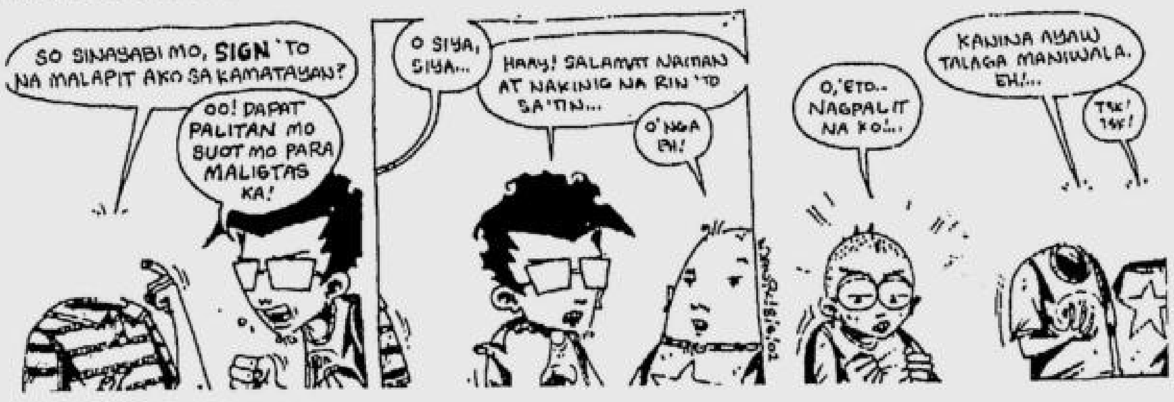
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ANOTHER ROUGH NEWS DAY.
6-10

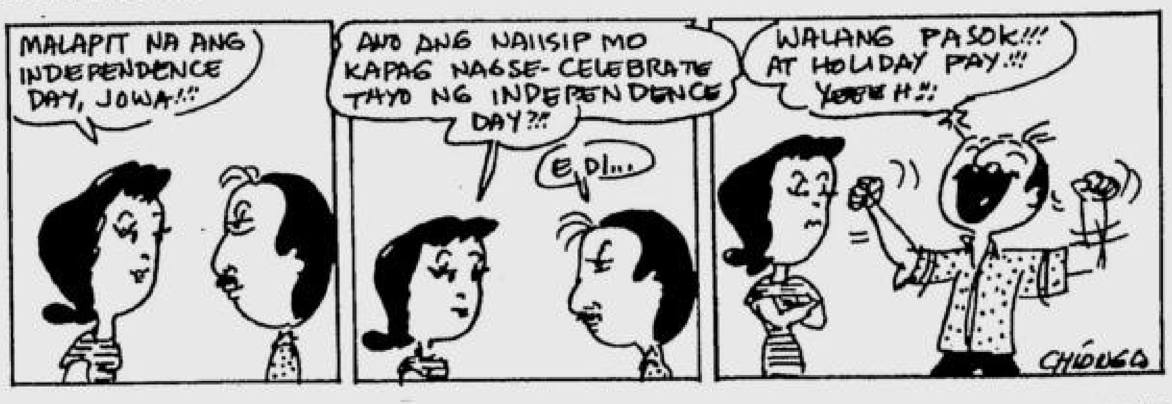
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SO SINASABI MO, SIGN 'TO NA MALAPIT AKO SA KAMATAYAN?
OO! DAPAT PALITAN MO SUOT MO PARA MALIGTAS KA!
O SIYA, SIYA...
HAAY! SALAMAT NAMAN AT NAKINIG NA RIN 'TO SA'TIN...
O'NGA EH!
O,'ETO.. NAGPALIT NA KO!...
KANINA AYAW TALAGA MANIWALA. EH!...
TSK! TSK!

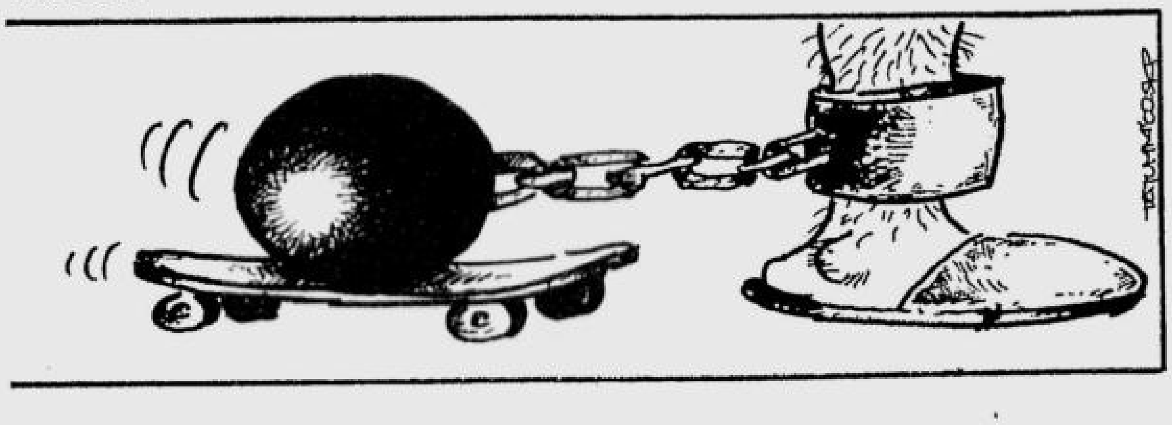
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MALAPIT NA ANG INDEPENDENCE DAY, JOWA!!
ANO ANG NAIISIP MO KAPAG NAGSE-CELEBRATE TAYO NG INDEPENDENCE DAY?!!
E, DI...
WALANG PASOK!!! AT HOLIDAY PAY!!! YEEEH!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Unwriterly episodes from a writing workshop

By Eric Melendez
Contributor

I AM beginning to notice a pattern of mishaps plaguing the start of our workshops. A few minor mix-ups and a flat tire discovered minutes before we left were ominous prefaces to our weeklong stay in Baguio City. And although all the fellows showed up this year, we still left behind schedule.

The Veneracion Hotel and Restaurant, we discovered when we got there, had been converted from an American era inn silently eroding on Loakan Road. All of us were more than eager to get to the room assignments, as most were quite worn by the long trip. We were then served *merienda*, and it was with bellies full of the hotel's rather food that we prepared ourselves for the long week ahead.

This year's panelists were Ophie Dimalanta, Cirilo Baustista, Becky Añonuevo, Mike Coroza, Lourd de Veyra, Ramil Gulle, Vic Torres, Ferdie Lopez and myself. The 15 fellows were Frederic Dimzon, Ma. Francezca Kwe, J. Pocholo Goitia, Randell Suba and Sheila Molarto of the University of Sto. Tomas; Leonardo Balmaceda Jr., Anjeline de Dios, Jan Mikael Co, Melissa Rellosa, Jeanie Nieva of Ateneo de Manila University; Alexander Agena Jr. of the University of the Philippines; Jose Jason Chancoco of Far Eastern University; Eunice Novio of Occidental Mindoro; Maryanne Moll of Naga City; and Jay Malaga of Negros Occidental.

Diverse

The fellows this year belonged to diverse backgrounds, from literature, philosophy and journalism to nursing, physical therapy and chemical engineering. Some were active members of the Thomasian Writers Guild; others were editorial board members of Ateneo's Heights or staff members of UST's Varsitarian and The Flame. The fellows were therefore far from 100 percent beginners. Settling into the workshop dynamics with much ease, they all contributed with intelligent readings and comments.

Standing out during the workshop were Jason and Jun, their poems distinguished by rhyme and meter—devices most beginning poets wouldn't willingly prod with a pole of any length. Other standouts were Aissa's smart juxtaposition of her story's protagonist and the different *reyna* of the *santacruzan*; Alex and his audacious scarecrow poem; Eunice's earnest narrative on the plight of Mindoro's natives; and Jeline's poetry, charged with insight and hinting at an intensity waiting to be brought into full play.

Like last year, the workshop sessions were capped by a roundtable discussion. With the fellows and a few Baguio-based professors in attendance, the panelists discussed creative writing's correspondence with religion, research, history, psychology, journalism and the academe. An informal literary reading was then held at the hotel's dining area that night.

Videoke death match

I dare say the workshop this year was equally successful despite episodes like the dire start, the hotel's comfort rooms and how they induced recollections of the Third Circle sans Ciacco, and my ride with Vic and Lourd in a Kia Pride version of "Christine," doing 85 at night on downhill blind curves, its driver taking us to Loakan Airport instead of Loakan Road. I am sure the fellows wouldn't soon forget how Baguio's supply of Red Horse was nightly threatened by nearly everyone's superhuman alcohol tolerance, the two-part Mike Coroza-refereed Ophie-Cirilo videoke death match, and the trips to Nevada Square, Café By The Ruins, Mine's View and Burnham Park, the *ukay-ukay* and, more importantly, the knowledge gained in the short week we spent together, each learning from the other.

It was no surprise that by the time we were back in Manila, we regarded each other with a familiarity beyond our common seven days. Anyone observing us probably thought we came not from a writers' workshop but from a match at once friendly and fierce, wherefrom we emerged weary but successful. We then shook hands, promising to keep in touch after an activity almost perfect in its conclusion.

If we leave Manila without a hitch next year, I'm going to be really worried.

FELLOWS critique a fellow's work. (From left) J. Pocholo Goitia, Anjeline de Dios, Jan Mikael Co, and Maryanne Moll of Naga City.

DINING WRITERS. (Clockwise from center) Cirilo Bautista (with glasses), Francis Macansantos, Ramil Gulle, Ophelia Dimalanta, Anna Bernaldo, Lourd de Veyra (partly hidden) and the author.

Top writers handle UST's Master's in Creative Writing

DISTINGUISHED writers will handle the Master in Arts in Creative Writing program of the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School. The faculty roster includes National Artist F. Sionil Jose, Southeast Asian Write Award recipient Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta, Centennial Literary Grand Prize winner Cirilo Bautista, US-based novelist and teacher Paulino Lim, Jr., and Australia-based poet, fictionist and performance artist Merlinda Bobis. Also in the roster are multi-Palanca winners J.Neil Garcia, Jose Victor Torres, Rebecca Añonuevo, and Michael Coroza.

Made possible through the efforts of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies (UST-CCWS), the new MA program is designed especially for students who are interested in honing their craft in poetry, fiction, drama and non-fiction.

For enrollment, contact the UST Graduate School, tel. 731-3101 loc. 247/731-5396. For admission requirements, call the UST CCWS, tel. 731-3101 loc. 8281. Look for Ferdie Lopez or Eric Melendez.

Kailangang gumising ng maaga, baka ma-traffic. May maiinip dyan.

Saan ka man darating, eskwelahan man o opisina ...

Hatid Ka Namin!

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Books

A better show of The Force

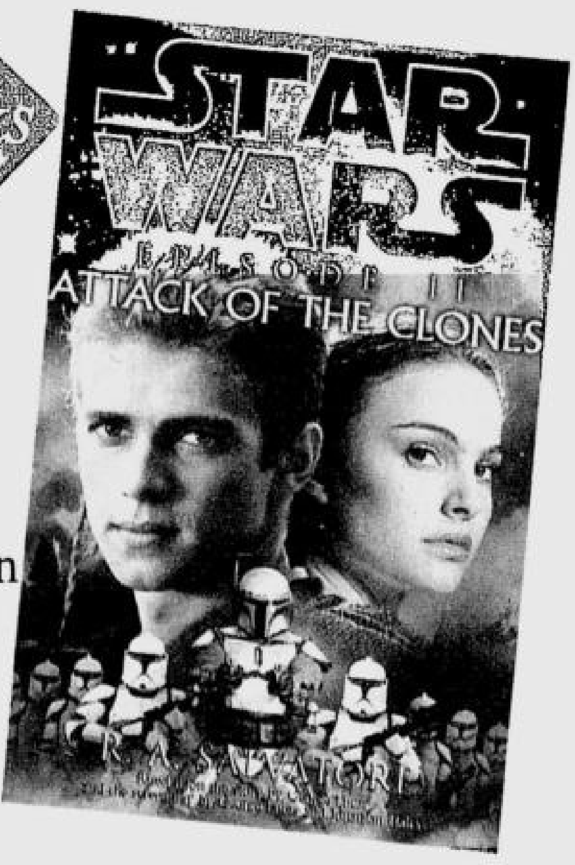
By Ruel S. De Vera

"Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones"
By R.A. Salvatore
Based on the story by George Lucas, and the screenplay by George Lucas and Jonathan Hale
Del Rey Books, New York, 2002
353 pages

REVIEW

ARE YOU still in the dark about the Dark Side? Have you understood all that talk about the Trade Federation? Do you want to experience Yoda using the Force a bit more?

Fantasy master R.A. Salvatore pieces together the puzzle effectively in this enjoyable novelization of 'Attack of the Clones'—and yes, the book's better than the movie



Then take your speeder bike and grab the "Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones" novelization. It might sound like a naked marketing gimmick just to squeeze more Republic Credits from Lucasfilm zombies. But what the ingenious folks at Lucasfilm do is recruit a top-flight fantasy author to redo the story in book form. As a result, best-selling author Terry Brooks' novelization of "Star Wars Episode I: the Phantom Menace" is light years better than the movie.

For "Attack," one of the true masters of the fantasy/sci-fi genre has come aboard. R.A. Salvatore, craftsman of the delightfully dark Dark Elf Trilogy, brings years of experience and true fantasy/sci-fi credibility to the task. And he does not disappoint.

No stranger

Salavatore has always been, at his best, wrapping adventure around a notably keen eye for society and conspiracy. He is no stranger to the Star Wars mythos, having penned the well-received "Star Wars the New Jedi Order: Vector Prime" novel.

But those were worlds that Salvatore himself shaped, more or less. Now, he has to work from an admittedly burdensome screenplay from George Lucas and Jonathan Hale. Don't get me wrong. The "Attack" screenplay has its moments, particularly in the political intrigue and battles, but its ridiculous Anakin Skywalker-Padme Amidala love story and the awful dialogue really work against it. To paraphrase one diminutive Jedi master: the screenplay clouds everything.

But Salvatore proves he has quite a link with the Force. He confidently steps into the Jedi boots and tells his own story, even though he occasionally stumbles on the screenplay's unwieldy dialogue.

Salvatore begins "Attack" by showing us the dreams that trouble the grown-up Anakin, and then prepares for the scene that starts the movie; the assassination attempt on Senator Amidala. Salvatore shows us the Senator as she makes her way to Coruscant.

This is what makes Salvatore's "Attack" special. He takes the time to piece the puzzle together, putting in scenes to explain what many of us missed in the movies. He provides an incredible window into the tortured growth of Anakin as a Jedi, throwing in scenes that show just why this Jedi of destiny will go the way he does. The massacre of Tusken Raiders on Tatooine, a scene tackled only tangentially in the film, is a particularly bloody but insightful scene. Salvatore also mints a lot of new scenes showing the bond between Anakin and mother Shmi Skywalker, all the way to the painful end.

Refreshing

The most refreshing element in Salvatore's "Attack" is the amount of space spent describing the unique father—uh, clone-son relationship between Jango and Boba Fett. Salvatore actually shows the two fishing, sharing a quiet moment of true family before the Kaminoans and Obi-Wan Kenobi arrive. Boba Fett shows off some of the promise that will come to fruition in the future trilogy, particularly in a scene where he discusses the relative merits of the right droid for Obi-Wan's starfighter.

Salvatore fills in so many blanks that even those who have seen the movie many times will find this "Attack" to be a great supplement. For those who are not too familiar with the Star Wars world, the book also provides a good amount of patient discourse on this dizzying Republic. As always, Salvatore is a galactic breeze to read.

That said, "Attack," like Jango's clones, isn't perfect. The Anakin-Padme love story, obviously despite Salvatore's best efforts and a prodigious amount of text spent on it, is still wooden and cringe-worthy. While quite a bit of ink is used to describe the world of the Jedi, Salvatore hardly discusses the villainous Sith, making them almost invisible instead of shadowy. Additionally, some of the book's parts appear verbatim with the film's scenes, albeit better described. To that end, the book's conclusion feels a bit hurried.

In many ways, however, R.A. Salvatore's novelization of "Episode II: Attack of the Clones" is a pretty solid sci-fi read by itself. As an aid to understanding the events behind the scenes in the movie, it is invaluable. It may have taken another master to do it, but this reader-friendly version is no mindless clone. And once again, thanks to the talent of one of the genre's most respected talents, the Force is still with the old belief: The book really is still better, even in a galaxy far, far away.

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